

FUTURE TIME CLAUSES

We often use time expressions such as *once*, *before*, *when*, *until* and *as soon as* in sentences about the future to say when an action will happen. We use a present tense verb (not a future form) in the clause after the time expression. This can be the present simple or the present perfect.

*I'll give him the book **when** I **see** him tonight.* (= I'll give him the book tonight. I know I'm going to see him then.)

*I'll make the dinner **as soon as** I've **written** my essay.* (= I'm going to write my essay first. After that, I'll make the dinner.)

*We'll have a party **right after** we've **finished** our exams.* (= We're going finish our exams first. Immediately after that, we'll have a party.)

We can begin the sentence with the time clause if we want to emphasise when the action will happen, rather than the action.

***Once he's finished** painting the walls, we're going to move the furniture back in.*

***The moment I arrive**, I'll call you.*

We can use *if* instead of *when* to show that the future action is only a possibility and is not definite. We can also use *as long as*.

*She's going to buy a house **if** she **gets** a good job.*

*I'll send you a postcard, **as long as** I **can** find a post office.*

Write sentences from the prompts. Use the verbs and the time expressions in brackets.

➡ I / not / look / for a job / I / graduate (will / until)

➡ I won't look for a job until I've graduated / I graduate.

1 I / go / on holiday / I / take / my exams (going to / after)

2 we / start / the class / all the students / arrive (can / as soon as)

3 students / change / class / term / start (can't / once)

4 I / have / more time / I / finish / university (should / once)

5 I / call / you / the lesson / end (will / the moment)

6 we / leave / here / we / have / a big celebration (before / going to)

7 you / be / ready / we / go (as soon as / should)

8 she / get / here / I / call / you (the moment / will)

9 I / finish / homework / I / help Dad / make dinner (once / will)

10 they / go out / finish / their exams (can't / until)