



**PSLE English Mastery**  
**Synthesis /**  
**Transformation**  
**The Write Tribe**

**Time & sequence**



5

## Time and Sequence

### **when, while, as**



### Practice 1

Rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in ONE sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

1 Tom was eating his sandwich. He noticed a small red spot on his arm.

While \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 The colours fade. They turn pale.

When \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3 We walked towards the deer. They showed no sign of fear.

\_\_\_\_\_ as

\_\_\_\_\_

4 Alan kept watch. His friend climbed over the wall into the neighbour's garden to retrieve the ball.

\_\_\_\_\_ while

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Maria started speaking. James listened attentively.

\_\_\_\_\_ when

\_\_\_\_\_

6 Ken noticed the tap water was a little murky. He was washing his hands.

As \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

as soon as, no sooner

- You use **as soon as** to say one thing happens immediately before another. You put **as soon as** before the thing that happens first.

Do not include words used to show that something is done without delay e.g. "immediately", "straight away" and "at once" as well as words that indicate sequence e.g. "after", "when" and "then" in the rewritten sentence.

- The guests left immediately after they finished their dessert.  
↓      ↓  
happened first
- As soon as the guests finished their dessert, they left.
- Peter promised to come to my party straight away when he finished his homework.
- Peter promised to come to my party as soon as he finished his homework.

- You can also use **no sooner** to say one thing happens immediately before another. You put **no sooner** before the thing that happens first.

- **No sooner** is used with **than**. You often use the past perfect tense in the part of the sentence that contains **no sooner**. When **no sooner** is in the middle of the sentence, you put it between **had** and the past participle.

- As soon as the guests finished their dessert, they left.
- The guests had no sooner finished their dessert than they left.

- When **no sooner** is at the beginning of the sentence, you invert the order of the helping verb **had** and the subject.

- The phone rang as soon as we sat down to eat.
- No sooner had we sat down to eat than the phone rang.

helping verb of the past subject  
perfect tense "had ... sat"

- The actress got out of her car and the cameras clicked furiously.
- No sooner had the actress got out of her car than the cameras clicked furiously.

## Practice 2

Rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in ONE sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

1 I turned the machine off immediately when I heard the strange noise.

\_\_\_\_\_ as soon as \_\_\_\_\_

2 The children got home. They dashed into their room to play computer games straight away.

As soon as \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3 James and Sally squealed with delight when they saw the new puppy.

As soon as \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4 The police followed the suspect as soon as he left his hideout.

\_\_\_\_\_ no sooner \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Mum put the washing out. It started to rain.

No sooner \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6 The students stood up at once when they saw the principal.

No sooner \_\_\_\_\_

## until, since

- You use **until** to talk about the time between two actions or events. You put **until** in front of the later point in time.

Do not include "will" in the combined sentence.



- Don't open your eyes. I will tell you to do so.
- Don't open your eyes **until** I tell you to do so.

Do not include "only" in the rewritten sentence.



- You can only leave when the show ends.
- You cannot leave **until** the show ends.

Change the positive "can" to the negative "cannot" so that the meaning of the rewritten sentence is the same as the meaning of the original sentence.

- The farmers work in the field. They stop work when the sun sets.
- The farmers work in the field **until** the sun sets.
- The farmers work in the field **until** sunset.

You can sometimes rewrite the words after "until" as a noun or noun phrase.

- You use **since** to talk about the time between the present and a point in the past. You put **since** in front of the past time or event.
- You use the present perfect tense for the main clause. You use the simple past tense for the part of the sentence that begins with **since** if **since** is followed by a clause.
  - Uncle Mike works in Beijing. He was posted there in 2014.
  - Uncle Mike has worked in Beijing **since** he was posted there in 2014.
- Alice has suffered from asthma. She first had asthma in January last year.
- Alice has suffered from asthma **since** January last year.
- I have not seen my cousins. They migrated to Australia three years ago.
- **Since** my cousins migrated to Australia three years ago, I have not seen them.

### Practice 3

Rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in ONE sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

1 No one has seen the missing man. He was last seen three days ago.

\_\_\_\_\_ since

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Carol has not ridden her bike. She had an accident.

Since \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3 You can watch television after you have finished your homework.

\_\_\_\_\_ until

\_\_\_\_\_

4 Mum has been teaching in this school after she graduated in 2000.

Since \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5 The farmer did not allow his helpers to leave. They had to finish packing the vegetables.

\_\_\_\_\_ until

\_\_\_\_\_

6 The people waited patiently outside the entrance for the ticket office to open.

\_\_\_\_\_ until

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Practice 4

Rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in ONE sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

1 The results were announced. The spectators cheered loudly.

\_\_\_\_\_ when

2 Jason was watering the plants when he saw a snake hiding under some bushes.

While \_\_\_\_\_

3 The teacher asked for a volunteer. Mike put up his hand at once.

No sooner \_\_\_\_\_

4 You cannot go out with your friends before you finish your homework.

\_\_\_\_\_ until

5 The residents have complained about the insects. The insects appeared two weeks ago.

\_\_\_\_\_ since

6 Dad's plane landed. He called Mum without delay.

As soon as \_\_\_\_\_