

# *Future time clauses*

Often, we want to talk about the future in relation to something happening in the present, so we use a “time clause.”

- He’ll look for a job when *he graduates*.
- I’m going to work after *I graduate*.

When a sentence about future time tells about two actions, the main action is in the *future* (*will* or *be going to*) and the verb in the *time clause* is often in the present tense.

The time clause can be at the beginning or the end of the sentence.



- *Before I look for a job,* I will finish my studies.
- I will finish my studies *before I look for a job.*

(Look where the comma is!)

Here are some common time expressions.

- *When, after, and as soon as* often introduce the event that happens first.

*When I graduate*, I will look for a job.

- *Before, until, and by the time* often introduce the event that happens second.

*By the time I get a job*, I'll be out of school.

*Before I get a job*, I'll finish school.

*Until I get a job*, I'll live with Mom to save money.

*While* shows that two events are happening at the same time.

- *While* I look for a job, I will continue to study.

(I will look for a job and study during the same time period.)

# Practice

Sandy and Jeff will get married.

Then Sandy will graduate.

\_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_.

Marta will be 42.

Marta will get her diploma.

By the time Marta \_\_\_\_\_ diploma,  
\_\_\_\_\_ 42.