

2.6 Linkers and time expressions

Linkers and time expressions are followed by full sentences (i.e. linker + subject + main verb).

While and **when** are used to link two sentences describing events taking place at the same time:

While the astronauts were collecting specimens on the Moon, they found some interesting rocks.

David became interested in psychology **when** he was in high school.

After, as soon as, before and **when** are used to link two sentences describing events taking place one after another:

After Mark spent hours observing the work of archaeologists, he realised how important their job is.

I checked the price of the new smartphone **before** I bought it.

As soon as Ann published the photos of her new experiments on social media, she got a lot of positive comments.

When Sarah received text messages asking for the password to her account, she deleted them straight away.

Linkers and time expressions are followed by nouns or noun phrases: *during the holidays, for twenty-two days, until (till) late evening, by the end of the century.*

During refers to a period of time:

The linguist explored several languages **during** his stay in India.

Until and **till** refer to a point in time:

We didn't do many experiments in Chemistry classes **until (till)** last year.

By, when used with a noun, refers to an event which is happening or which happened before a particular point in time:

By the time we got home, we were tired and hungry.

1 Choose the correct option.

- Bill Gates became interested in computers *when / during* he was a kid.
- My sister always buys the latest gadget *until / as soon as* it is available.
- Computers had smaller memories than smartphones *during / while* my childhood.
- We completed all of the chemistry reports *by / till* twelve o'clock.
- I learned how to analyse data *during / while* I was working in Silicon Valley.
- Text me *after / until* you get home tonight, OK?
- You need to enter a password *until / before* you can use the computer.
- I didn't know how to use the printer *as soon as / till* you showed me.

2 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use no more than five words including the word in capitals. Do not change the word given.

- The chemist developed a theory at the same time she analysed the data. **WHILE**
_____ the data, she developed a theory.
- We finished the biology class and then immediately went home. **SOON**
We _____ we finished the biology class.
- I collected the evidence and then started writing this report. **AFTER**
I started writing this report _____ the evidence.
- I became an optician last year, in December. **UNTIL**
I didn't _____ December last year.
- When David was doing the experiment, he discovered something interesting. **DURING**
David _____ the experiment.
- He washed his hands and then he prepared lunch. **BEFORE**
_____, he washed his hands.
- Everyone was in the classroom when I arrived. **BY**
_____ everyone was in the classroom.
- Lisa began to panic when she saw the Maths test. **AS**
_____ the Maths test, she began to panic.

3 UNIT REVIEW Choose the correct answer, A, B or C to complete the text.

Steven Jobs (1955–2011) was an American businessman and ¹_____ who changed the world. He grew up with an adoptive family ²_____ his biological parents decided not to keep him. As a child, he helped his father fix things in their garage, and in this way, he developed an early love for engineering. At college he studied Physics, literature and poetry, but after some time he quit and decided to travel through India instead. ³_____ he was there, he became interested in Zen Buddhism. Perhaps he was inspired by this Eastern philosophy, because Jobs later became famous for producing simple and minimalist devices. What's more, he did not ⁴_____ research on these gadgets but designed them by using only his intuition. Many of these products ⁵_____ a big effect on modern life and Jobs' company became successful and iconic.

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|---------------|------------------|
| 1 A invention | 4 A have |
| B inventor | B make |
| C invented | C do |
| 2 A while | 5 A used to have |
| B by | B were having |
| C after | C had |
| 3 A While | |
| B Till | |
| C During | |