



Mini Lesson 009 - Using the Future with Time Clauses

Using the Future with Time Clauses

When discussing future events, English has an unusual quirk: we often use the present tense in time clauses, even though the event is in the future. This can be confusing at first, but with practice, it becomes second nature.

Example:

- **Main clause (Future tense):** I **will text** you.
- **Time clause (Present tense):** **when I arrive** at the airport.

Notice that the time clause uses the present simple ("arrive") even though it refers to a future event. This structure helps make sentences sound more natural and fluid.

Important: Avoid using "will" in both clauses. Instead of saying, "I will text you when I will arrive," simply say, "I will text you when I arrive."

Common Time Expressions:

- **When:** I'll call you **when** I reach the station.
- **After:** She'll send the email **after** she completes the report.
- **Before:** They'll leave **before** the sun sets.
- **As soon as:** I'll reply **as soon as** I get your message.
- **Once:** We'll start dinner **once** everyone is here.
- **In case:** Bring your coat **in case** it gets chilly.
- **While:** I'll finish the presentation **while** you make dinner.
- **Whether or not:** He'll attend the meeting **whether or not** it's scheduled late.
- **Whatever:** She'll support you **whatever** decision you make.
- **The moment (that):** I'll call you **the moment** the package arrives.
- **The minute (that):** She'll step in **the minute that** the class begins.





Let's Practice!

Complete the sentences using '**will + infinitive**' in the main clause and the **present simple** in the time clause.

1. They _____ (call) us as soon as they _____ (land) in New York.
2. I _____ (make) breakfast after I _____ (wake) up.
3. Once he _____ (hear) the news, he _____ (start) planning.
4. She _____ (come) home before the guests _____ (arrive).
5. We _____ (order) food in case they _____ (not bring) anything.
6. The minute that the concert _____ (end), we _____ (head) out for drinks.
7. Whatever you _____ (decide), we _____ (support) you.
8. Will you _____ (join) us before the movie _____ (start)?
9. They _____ (begin) the meeting once everyone _____ (sit) down.
10. I _____ (visit) you whether or not you _____ (be) free.

Answers:

1. They **will call** us as soon as they **land** in New York.
2. I **will make** breakfast after I **wake** up.
3. Once he **hears** the news, he **will start** planning.
4. She **will come** home before the guests **arrive**.
5. We **will order** food in case they **don't bring** anything.
6. The minute that the concert **ends**, we **will head** out for drinks.
7. Whatever you **decide**, we **will support** you.
8. Will you **join** us before the movie **starts**?
9. They **will begin** the meeting once everyone **sits** down.
10. I **will visit** you whether or not you **are** free.

