



# Time Clauses:

## Future Time Clauses: By the Time, Once & Present Perfect

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- By the time we \_\_\_\_ there, the shop will be closed.  
a) getting  
b) got  
c) will get  
d) get
- Once you \_\_\_\_ the rules, the game is easy.  
a) understanding  
b) understood  
c) understand  
d) will understand
- I'll lend you the book after I \_\_\_\_ reading it.  
a) have finished  
b) will finish  
c) had finished  
d) will have finished
- I don't know when she \_\_\_\_ back from her trip.  
a) coming  
b) will come  
c) come  
d) comes
- Once the sun \_\_\_\_, it will get very hot.  
a) rising  
b) rose  
c) rises  
d) will rise
- Don't worry. She \_\_\_\_ us when she's ready.  
a) will tell  
b) telling  
c) told  
d) tells
- We can go out once it \_\_\_\_ raining.  
a) stopping  
b) stops  
c) stopped  
d) will stop
- By the time the ambulance \_\_\_\_, it will be too late.  
a) will arrive  
b) arriving  
c) arrived  
d) arrives
- Nobody knows when the next earthquake \_\_\_\_.  
a) happening  
b) will happen  
c) happen  
d) happens
- I'll stay here till you \_\_\_\_ back.  
a) coming  
b) came  
c) will come  
d) come

11. You won't pass the exam unless you \_\_\_\_ harder.  
a) study  
b) studying  
c) studied  
d) will study
12. She'll email us once she \_\_\_\_ at the hotel.  
a) is arriving  
b) arriving  
c) has arrived  
d) will arrive
13. I'm not sure when they \_\_\_\_ the new bridge.  
a) building  
b) built  
c) build  
d) will build
14. By the time you get home, I \_\_\_\_ cooking dinner.  
a) will have finished  
b) have finished  
c) am finishing  
d) finish
15. I'll keep calling her until she \_\_\_\_ the phone.  
a) answering  
b) answers  
c) answered  
d) will answer
16. \_\_\_\_ you have any problems, don't hesitate to ask.  
a) Once  
b) After  
c) If  
d) When
17. She'll look after the bags while we \_\_\_\_ swimming.  
a) being  
b) were  
c) are  
d) will be
18. We don't know when it \_\_\_\_ snow this winter.  
a) is  
b) did  
c) does  
d) will
19. I won't go to sleep until I \_\_\_\_ all my homework.  
a) have done  
b) doing  
c) did  
d) will do
20. He'll start looking for a job once he \_\_\_\_ his degree.  
a) had got  
b) has got  
c) getting  
d) will get



## Answers

1. d) get
2. c) understand
3. a) have finished
4. b) will come
5. c) rises
6. a) will tell
7. b) stops
8. d) arrives
9. b) will happen
10. d) come
11. a) study
12. c) has arrived
13. d) will build
14. a) will have finished
15. b) answers
16. c) If
17. c) are
18. d) will
19. a) have done
20. b) has got



# Explanations

## 1. “get” (d)

After 'by the time' for future reference, use present simple. 'By the time' means 'before or when a certain moment arrives'.

## 2. “understand” (c)

After 'once' in a time clause, use present simple. 'Once' means 'as soon as' or 'after'. This sentence expresses a general truth.

## 3. “have finished” (a)

Present perfect 'have finished' is used in the time clause to emphasise that the reading will be fully completed before the lending. No future forms (will) are allowed in time clauses.

## 4. “will come” (b)

This is a noun clause (indirect question: 'When will she come back?'), not a time clause. In noun clauses, use the future tense 'will'. Compare: 'Call me when she comes back' (time clause = present simple).

## 5. “rises” (c)

After 'once' for future reference, use present simple. Third person singular requires 'rises'.

## 6. “will tell” (a)

'She will tell us' is the main clause and uses 'will' for the future. The time clause 'when she's ready' correctly uses present simple.

## 7. “stops” (b)

After 'once' in a future time clause, use present simple. 'Once it stops raining' means 'as soon as it stops'.

## 8. “arrives” (d)

After 'by the time' for future reference, use present simple. Third person singular requires 'arrives'.

## 9. “will happen” (b)

'Nobody knows when...' introduces a noun clause (indirect question), not a time clause. Earthquakes are unpredictable, so 'will' is needed for the future. Compare: 'We'll evacuate when the earthquake happens' (time clause = present simple).

## 10. “come” (d)

'Till' is informal for 'until'. After 'till' for future reference, use present simple. 'You' takes the base form 'come'.

## 11. “study” (a)

'Unless' means 'if not' and follows the same rule — use present simple for future reference in the subordinate clause.

## 12. “has arrived” (c)

Present perfect 'has arrived' after 'once' emphasises that the arrival will be fully complete before the emailing. No future forms are allowed in time clauses.

## 13. “will build” (d)

'I'm not sure when...' introduces a noun clause (indirect question), not a time clause. Building a bridge is not a scheduled or habitual event, so 'will' is needed for the future.

**14. “will have finished” (a)**

The main clause uses future perfect 'will have finished' because 'by the time' indicates the cooking will be complete before the arrival. Only the time clause uses present simple; the main clause keeps the future form.

**15. “answers” (b)**

After 'until' for future reference, use present simple. 'I'll keep calling her until she answers the phone.'

**16. “If” (c)**

Problems are not certain — they may or may not occur. Use 'if' for uncertain possibilities. 'When' would imply that problems are guaranteed to happen.

**17. “are” (c)**

After 'while' for future reference, present continuous (are + -ing) describes an action that will be in progress. 'Will be' cannot be used in time clauses.

**18. “will” (d)**

'We don't know when...' introduces a noun clause (indirect question), not a time clause. Snowfall is unpredictable, so use 'will' for the future. Compare: 'I'll stay inside when it snows' (time clause = present simple).

**19. “have done” (a)**

Present perfect 'have done' in the time clause with 'until' emphasises that the homework will be fully completed before going to sleep. No future forms are allowed in time clauses.

**20. “has got” (b)**

Present perfect 'has got' after 'once' emphasises that getting the degree will be fully completed before the job search begins. 'Will get' is wrong because future forms cannot be used in time clauses.