



Time Clauses: Mixed Time Clauses: All Tenses & Conjunctions

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- Hardly had she sat down ____ the phone rang.
a) until
b) that
c) than
d) when
- No sooner had I closed my eyes ____ the alarm went off.
a) than
b) that
c) before
d) when
- Whenever I ____ that song, I think of my childhood.
a) will hear
b) hear
c) am hearing
d) heard
- Every time he ____ the ball, the crowd cheered.
a) was kicking
b) had kicked
c) kicked
d) kicks
- We'll have left ____ the time you get here.
a) in
b) on
c) by
d) at
- The moment she ____ the news, she burst into tears.
a) had heard
b) hears
c) was hearing
d) heard
- I ____ to you as soon as I have more information.
a) getting back
b) will get back
c) got back
d) get back
- After the guests had gone, we ____ cleaning up the house.
a) started
b) were starting
c) had started
d) start
- ____ had the concert begun when the fire alarm went off.
a) As soon as
b) Hardly
c) The moment
d) No sooner
- She always texts me whenever she ____ something funny online.
a) saw
b) is seeing
c) sees
d) will see
- By the time he retired, he ____ for the company for 35 years.
a) was working
b) has worked
c) works
d) had worked

12. I want to finish this report before my boss ____ back from lunch.
a) gets
b) getting
c) got
d) will get
13. No sooner ____ we sat down than the waiter brought the menu.
a) did
b) were
c) had
d) have
14. While she was cooking, he ____ the table.
a) has set
b) sets
c) had set
d) was setting
15. ____ she finishes university, she will have studied for four years.
a) By the time
b) Until
c) As soon as
d) While
16. Whenever there ____ a power cut, we light candles.
a) was
b) is
c) has been
d) will be
17. He had packed his bags long before the taxi ____.
a) arrives
b) arrived
c) was arriving
d) had arrived
18. Don't cross the street ____ the light turns green.
a) once
b) after
c) when
d) until
19. She locked all the windows before ____ the house.
a) leaving
b) leave
c) left
d) she will leave
20. I had barely finished speaking ____ he started arguing.
a) that
b) as
c) when
d) than



Answers

1. d) when
2. a) than
3. b) hear
4. c) kicked
5. c) by
6. d) heard
7. b) will get back
8. a) started
9. b) Hardly
10. c) sees
11. d) had worked
12. a) gets
13. c) had
14. d) was setting
15. a) By the time
16. b) is
17. b) arrived
18. d) until
19. a) leaving
20. c) when



Explanations

1. “when” (d)

The fixed pattern is 'Hardly had + subject + past participle ... when'. 'Hardly' pairs with 'when', not 'than'.
Compare: 'No sooner ... than'.

2. “than” (a)

The fixed pattern is 'No sooner had + subject + past participle ... than'. 'No sooner' pairs with 'than', not 'when'.
Compare: 'Hardly ... when'.

3. “hear” (b)

'Whenever' + present simple expresses a habitual or repeated action. The main clause 'I think' is also present simple. 'Hear' is a stative verb and is rarely used in the continuous form.

4. “kicked” (c)

'Every time' + past simple for repeated past events. Both clauses use past simple because the actions happened repeatedly in the past.

5. “by” (c)

'By the time' is a fixed expression meaning 'before or when a certain moment arrives'. The main clause uses future perfect 'will have left' to show the action will be complete.

6. “heard” (d)

'The moment' + past simple describes an immediate reaction. 'Hear' is a stative verb and is rarely used in the continuous form. Past simple, not past perfect, is used because the two events happened at virtually the same time.

7. “will get back” (b)

The main clause uses 'will' for a future promise. The time clause 'as soon as I have' uses present simple. Only the time clause drops 'will'; the main clause keeps it.

8. “started” (a)

The time clause uses past perfect 'had gone' (the earlier action). The main clause uses past simple 'started' (the later action). This is the standard pattern: past perfect for the first event, past simple for the second.

9. “Hardly” (b)

'Hardly' triggers subject-auxiliary inversion: 'Hardly had the concert begun when ...'. 'No sooner' would need 'than' instead of 'when'. 'As soon as' and 'The moment' do not use inversion.

10. “sees” (c)

'Whenever' + present simple for habitual actions. Third person singular requires 'sees'. 'See' is a stative verb and is not used in the continuous form here.

11. “had worked” (d)

'By the time' + past simple requires past perfect in the main clause. 'Had worked for 35 years' shows the duration up to the point of retirement.

12. “gets” (a)

After 'before' for future reference, use present simple. Third person singular requires 'gets'. The main clause 'I want to finish' shows the action is about the near future.

13. “had” (c)

The inverted structure is 'No sooner had + subject + past participle ... than'. 'Had' is the auxiliary for past perfect: 'No sooner had we sat down than ...'.

14. “was setting” (d)

Two simultaneous past actions both use past continuous. 'While she was cooking, he was setting the table' shows both actions were in progress at the same time.

15. “By the time” (a)

'By the time' + present simple pairs with future perfect in the main clause. It means 'before or when she finishes'. 'Until' and 'As soon as' don't work with future perfect in this meaning.

16. “is” (b)

'Whenever' + present simple for habitual situations. 'There is' describes a situation that happens repeatedly. The main clause also uses present simple.

17. “arrived” (b)

The main clause uses past perfect 'had packed' (the earlier action). The time clause with 'before' uses past simple 'arrived' (the later action). Using past perfect in both clauses would be unusual.

18. “until” (d)

'Until' means 'wait up to the moment that'. 'Don't cross until the light turns green' = wait for the green light. 'When', 'once' and 'after' would mean 'don't cross at or after the green light', which is the opposite of the intended meaning.

19. “leaving” (a)

'Before' can act as a preposition followed by a gerund (-ing form). 'Before leaving the house' is a shorter way of saying 'before she left the house'. 'Before leave' and 'before left' are ungrammatical without a subject.

20. “when” (c)

The pattern 'barely/hardly + past perfect ... when' is correct. 'Barely' and 'hardly' pair with 'when', not 'than'. Compare: 'No sooner ... than'.