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TODAY'S TOP STORIES

PRESIDENT TRAVELS TO CHINA

SNOW CAUSES CHAOS IN MID WEST

OSCAR ROUND-UP



OSCAR ROUND-UP

When collecting his prize, he turned to the waiting crowd and lifted the award up high for everyone to see. While the crowd cheered, a voice shouted out, 'Who are you going to dedicate it to?' As he thought about his answer, a large smile spread across his face. 'To my mother, of course!' he replied.

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Presentation

Use the time conjunctions *when, while* and *as* to connect two sentences and show that the two actions happen at the same time:

I was walking down the street. I saw the strangest thing.

*I saw the strangest thing happen **when/while/as** I was walking down the street.*

You need a comma after the time clause when it is at the beginning of the sentence:

When/While/As *I was walking down the street, I saw the strangest thing.*

when

Use *when* (and not *as* or *while*) to talk about:

- a short action that happened at the same time as a longer action. Use the past simple for the short action:
*We were eating supper **when it started** to rain.*

while

You usually use *while* (although *when* is also possible) to talk about:

- two long actions that happened at the same time. Use the past continuous for both actions: **While he was putting the tent up, the others were unpacking the car.**

as

Use *as* to talk about:

- two short actions that happened at the same time. Use the past simple for both actions: **As I opened the door, I heard a noise.**

when/while + -ing

You can also form time phrases with *when/while* + verb + *-ing*. Use *when* for a short action, and use *when* or *while* for a long action:

When receiving the award, he smiled and shook her hand. (= at the moment when he received the award)

When/While answering questions from the press, he took time to think carefully about his answers.
(= during the whole time)

You often use clauses with *when* + *-ing*:

- to introduce a set of instructions: **When speaking in public**, always remember to speak slowly and clearly.
- to talk about habits: **When talking to the camera**, he always looked at his feet.

Use clauses with *while* + *-ing* to talk about two long actions that are in progress at the same time. Use *while* with either of the actions:

*He looked around nervously for support **while answering the questions.***

*He answered the questions **while looking around nervously for support.***

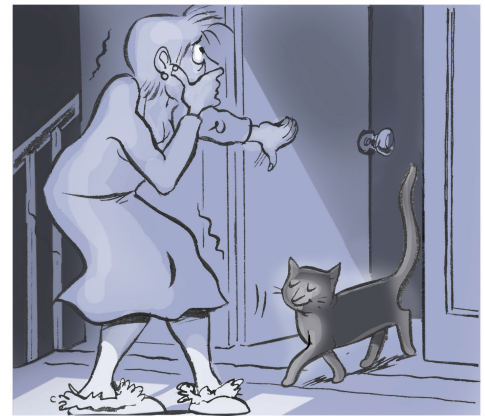
Exercises

1 The use of **while** is incorrect in four of the sentences below. Replace the incorrect examples of **while** with **when**.

- 1 ~~While~~ I got up this morning, Elena and Hans were preparing breakfast. X When
- 2 Hans was making the coffee, **while** Elena fried the eggs. ✓
- 3 I was really surprised **while** I saw all the food.
- 4 We talked about our plans **while** we ate breakfast.
- 5 **While** Hans and I were clearing the table, Elena was checking the weather on the internet.
- 6 **While** checking the weather, she came across an interesting news story.
- 7 The roof of the town hall was damaged **while** it was struck by lightning last night.
- 8 **While** we heard this, we decided we had to go into town to see it.

2 Cross out the incorrect conjunctions. In one sentence all three conjunctions are possible.

- 1 As/When/~~While~~ I arrived home, I heard a strange noise.
- 2 As/When/~~While~~ I was walking up the stairs, I heard it again.
- 3 As/When/~~While~~ I put my hand out to open the door to the bedroom, it slowly opened by itself.
- 4 As/When/~~While~~ I jumped back in horror, a dark shadow crept out of the room.
- 5 I was about to scream ~~as/when/while~~ I saw that it was only the cat!
- 6 The cat turned and looked at me ~~as/when/while~~ I quietly laughed to myself.



3 Combine the two sentences using the conjunction in brackets and the verb + **-ing**.

- 1 You are giving a presentation to a room full of people. Always speak slowly and clearly. (when)
When giving a presentation to a room full of people, always speak slowly and clearly.
- 2 You are crossing the road. Remember to look both ways. (when)
.....
- 3 You are waiting for the pasta to cook. You can prepare the sauce. (while)
.....
- 4 He looked very uncomfortable. He answered the questions from the press. (when)
.....
- 5 She looked distractedly through the window at the rain. She listened to my questions. (while)
.....
- 6 You are driving the car. Don't use your mobile phone. (while)
.....