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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 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.*

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

- 1 ~~While~~ I got up this morning, Elena and Hans were preparing breakfast. ~~While~~ 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)
.....