

Time clauses



NO 'WILL' NOR 'WOULD' IN THESE CLAUSES

Common Time Conjunctions



- When
- After
- Before
- Till / until
- As soon as
- While
- Once
- As
- As long as

Tenses in the Time Clause

French	English
Futur simple <i>Quand tu auras 18 ans, tu pourras voter.</i>	Simple present <i>When you are 18, you'll be allowed to vote.</i>
Futur antérieur <i>Nous discuterons de cette question quand les enfants seront allés se coucher.</i>	Present perfect <i>We'll discuss this question when the children have gone to bed.</i>
Passé simple, passé composé, imparfait <i>Quand j'étais enfant, ceci n'était qu'une petite ville.</i>	Simple past <i>When I was a child, this was only a small town.</i>
Passé antérieur <i>Quand il eut relu sa copie, il la rendit.</i>	Past perfect <i>When he had proofread his paper, he handed it in.</i>
Conditionnel passé <i>Il a dit qu'il commencerait quand tout le monde serait arrivé.</i>	Past perfect <i>He said he would begin when everyone had arrived.</i>

Spotting a time clause



Tip: replace it by an adverb such as ‘tomorrow’.

- *Quand tu auras l'argent* tu pourras t'acheter une voiture
= *demain* tu t'achèteras une voiture.

When you have enough money, you'll buy yourself a car.

- Je ne sais pas quand il viendra ≠ *Je ne sais pas demain.
I don't know when he will come.

Ambiguous cases



- Tell me when you arrive.
= Appelle-moi à ce moment-là, au moment de ton arrivée.
- Tell me when you'll arrive.
= Donne-moi l'heure de ton arrivée.