TIME & TENSE · PART 3

Which came first?

by the time · until · once · as soon as

PAU English · Use of English · Transformations

PAU English AI Lab by PedagoIA

WARM-UP

Which one sounds right?

A

By the time we arrived, they **finished** dinner.

B

By the time we arrived, they **had finished** dinner.

Vote with your hands. Then tell your partner why.

THE CONNECTOR DECIDES THE TENSE

Almost together, or clearly before?

ALMOST TOGETHER · until, as soon as, once, after, before

I called him as soon as I **got** home.

Past simple is enough. *had got* is also correct.

CLEARLY BEFORE · by the time, when… already

By the time we arrived, they **had finished**.

The past perfect is **required**.

B is correct. With **by the time**, the event that was already over goes one step back: the past perfect.

PICTURE IT

Put the events on a line



By the time **we arrived** (2nd · past simple), **they had finished dinner** (1st · past perfect).

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THE TRICK

Four connectors, four meanings

by the time

it had already happened

By the time I woke up, she had left.

until

up to that moment · usually negative

We didn’t leave until the rain stopped.

once

from the moment that

Once I had eaten, I went to bed.

as soon as

immediately after

I called him as soon as I got home.

YOUR TURN · 3 MINUTES

Choose the connector

1 We didn’t leave _____ the rain stopped.

2 _____ we got to the station, the train had left.

3 Call me _____ you land.

4 _____ you have finished the exam, you can go home.

5 She had a shower _____ she went to bed.

6 I was cooking _____ my brother was setting the table.

by the time · until · as soon as · once · before · while

CHECK

Choose the connector

1	We didn’t leave **until** the rain stopped.	negative + until
2	**By the time** we got to the station, the train had left.	past perfect after
3	Call me **as soon as** you land.	immediately after
4	**Once** you have finished the exam, you can go home.	from that moment
5	She had a shower **before** she went to bed.	earlier than
6	I was cooking **while** my brother was setting the table.	at the same time

THE PAU TECHNIQUE

Four steps, one sentence

They **finished** dinner **before** we arrived.

Begin: By the time we…

1 · Order the events. 1st: they finished dinner. 2nd: we arrived.

2 · Later event after the connector. *By the time we arrived* (past simple).

3 · Earlier event one step back. *they had finished dinner*.

4 · Check the order. Reading it, is it clear that dinner came first?

✓ By the time we arrived, they **had finished** dinner.

ONE STORY, FOUR CONNECTORS

The PAU loves to switch between these

Story: I finished my homework. Then I went out.

ONCE	**Once I had finished** my homework, I went out.	from that moment
AFTER	I went out **after I had finished** my homework.	later than
UNTIL	I **didn’t go out until** I had finished my homework.	negative + until
BEFORE	I finished my homework **before I went out**.	earlier than

PAU PRACTICE · 6 MINUTES

Your turn

1

The film started before we got to the cinema.

TIME

_____

2

She didn’t relax before the exams were over.

UNTIL

_____

3

He phoned me immediately after he heard the news.

SOON

_____

4

When I reached the platform, the train was no longer there.

ALREADY

_____

CHECK

Answers

1	**By the time** we got to the cinema, the film **had started**.	past perfect required
2	She didn’t relax **until** the exams were over.	negative + until
3	He phoned me **as soon as** he heard the news.	also: had heard
4	When I reached the platform, the train **had already left**.	«left» changes the meaning

BE THE EXAMINER

What mark would you give?

The guests left before we got to the party. **(By the time…)**

a By the time we got to the party, the guests had left. **0,5 · 0,25 · 0 ?**

b By the time we got to the party, the guests left. **0,5 · 0,25 · 0 ?**

c By the time the guests left, we got to the party. **0,5 · 0,25 · 0 ?**

BEFORE YOU WRITE

Three questions to ask yourself

1 Which event came **first**?

2 Does the connector need the **past perfect**? (by the time, already)

3 Is there a **negative** with until?

Homework: PAU English AI Lab → Time & Tense → «Time connectors & sequence»