

Beginner

The Use of When I do... When I've done ... When and If...

RULES AND EXAMPLES

1. Study this example:

A: Will you phone me tomorrow?

B: Yes, I'll phone you when I get home from work.

Note: 'I'll phone you when I get home' is a sentence with two parts:

the main part : 'I'll phone you'

the **when**-part: '**when I get home.**'

The time in the sentence is future ('tomorrow'), but we use a *present* tense (**I get**) in **when**-part of the sentence.

We do not use **will** in the **when**-part.

Some more examples:

1. We'll go out **when** it **stops** raining. (*not* when it will stop)
2. **When** you **are** in London again, come and see us. (*not* When you will be)

The same thing happens after **while / before / after / as soon as / until or till**:

1. I'm going to read a lot **while I'm** on holiday. (*not* while I will be)
2. I'll probably go back home on Sunday. **Before I go**, I'd like to visit the museum.
3. Wait here **until (or till) I come** back.

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2. You can also use the present perfect (**have done**) after **when / after / until / as soon as**:

Examples:

1. Can I borrow that book **when** you've **finished** with it?
2. Don't say anything while Ian is here. Wait **until** he **has gone**

If you use the present perfect, one thing must be complete *before* the other (so the two things do not happen together):

Example:

When I phoned Kate, we can have dinner.

(= First I'll phone Kate and *after that* we can have dinner.)

Do not use the present perfect if the two things happen together:

Example:

When I phone Kate, I'll ask her about the party. (*not* When I've phoned)

It is often possible to use either the present simple or the present perfect:

Example:

1. I'll come **as soon as I finish**. Or I'll come **as soon as I've finished**.
2. You'll feel better **after you have** or You'll feel better **after you've had** something to eat.

3. After if, we normally use the present simple (**if I do / if I see** etc.) for the future:

Example:

1. It's raining hard. We'll get wet **if we go** out. (*not* if we will go)
2. I'll be angry **if it happens** again. (*not* if it will happen)
3. Hurry up! **If we don't hurry**, we'll be late.