

## Unit 85: SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

In the sequence I took the key out of my pocket and opened the door, it is clear which action was first and which action happened second. You do not need to write anything else to show this. But sometimes it is not clear and you must use special words to show which was first or if the actions happened at the same time.

### 1 Same time

**a** Tarik can pay bills **while** I balance our chequebook.

**While** I was doing my taxes, the computer crashed.

**b** **As** I was leaving the bank, the teller called my name.

I saw she had my wallet **as** I turned around.

**c** They were eating **when** I arrived.

### 2 Different times

**a** **EVENT 1**

**First**, I'll pay bills.

She watched TV for a while.

**After** I have balanced my chequebook,

**EVENT 2**

**Then**, I'll balance my chequebook.

**After that**, she went to bed.

I'll pay bills.

**b** **EVENT 2**

I'll balance my chequebook

I found the message

**Before** I pay bills,

They ate

**EVENT 1**

**after** I have paid bills.

**when** I arrived home.

I'll balance my chequebook.

**when** I arrived. **Compare with 1 c.**

**NOTICE:** We cannot use **will** for future time with **after, as, before, when, while**. We use a present tense:

Have another coffee **before** you go. NOT *will go*

We'll arrest him **while** he's sleeping. NOT *will sleep*

**NOTICE:** If you are describing three or more events and you want to show the sequence clearly, put **first** at the beginning and put **finally** before the last event.