

Complex Temporal Clauses in French

Worksheet

Complex temporal clauses use *dès que*, *aussitôt que*, *tant que* + indicative or future perfect to express timing relationships. They trigger the future/past-simple rule: future tense in main clause requires future perfect or simple present in temporal clause.

Questions

1. Main clause in future. Temporal 'dès que' clause uses...?

- A) Conditional
- B) Future or future-perfect
- C) Subjunctive
- D) Imperative

2. Aussitôt qu'il ____, nous partirons. (arrive)

- A) arrive
- B) arrivera
- C) soit arrivé
- D) arriverait

3. Tant que tu ____ ici, je resterai. (be)

- A) es
- B) seras
- C) sois
- D) étais

4. Which is true about 'avant que'?

- A) Always indicative
- B) Always subjunctive
- C) Depends on tense
- D) No tense needed

5. Dès qu'il arrivera, nous commencerons la réunion.

6. Je t'appelle aussitôt que j'ai fini mon travail.

7. Tant que tu n'auras pas fini, je resterai ici.

8. Define: When do you use 'dès que' vs. 'aussitôt que'?

9. Define: Temporal clause after main future: dès qu'il ____.

10. Define: What is 'tant que'?

Answer Key

1. B) Future or future-perfect — Dès que (as soon as) + future main → future or future-perfect temporal.
2. B) arrivera — Future main + aussitôt qu' → future temporal: arrivera.
3. B) seras — tant que + indicative (not subjunctive): seras (future).
4. B) Always subjunctive — 'avant que' requires subjunctive (unlike 'dès que'/'tant que' which use indicative).
5. Main clause: nous commencerons (future) Temporal: dès qu' (as soon as) Subordinate: il arrivera (future simple, NOT future-perfect here, but can be future-perfect aura) Rule: After dès que in future context, French allows simple future; formal usage prefers future-perfect.
6. Main: Je t'appelle (present) Temporal: aussitôt que (as soon as) Subordinate: j'ai fini (passé composé—already finished) Meaning: I call you as soon as I have finished my work.
7. Main: je resterai (future) Temporal: tant que (while/as long as) Subordinate: tu n'auras pas fini (future-perfect—negated) Meaning: As long as you haven't finished, I will stay here.
8. Both mean 'as soon as.' aussitôt que is slightly more immediate/emphatic. Use either with same tense rules.
9. Use future or future-perfect: dès qu'il arrivera. / dès qu'il sera arrivé.
10. 'As long as' or 'while' — indicates duration, not a point event. Requires negative negation in some contexts.

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