

What are Temporal Clauses?

Worksheet

Temporal clauses are subordinate clauses that indicate the time of an action relative to another event. They use French conjunctions (quand, lorsque, avant que, après que) to link events chronologically.

Questions

1. Quand tu arrives, je suis là. What mood is 'suis'?
A) Subjunctive
B) Conditional
C) Indicative
D) Imperative
2. Avant qu'il ne _____, fermez les portes. What verb form fits?
A) arrive (indicative)
B) arrivera (future)
C) arrive (subjunctive)
D) arrivet (archaic)
3. Après que nous avons fini, nous sommes partis. What is the time order?
A) Finishing happens after leaving
B) Finishing happens before leaving
C) They happen simultaneously
D) The time order is unclear
4. Which word means 'as soon as' in temporal clauses?
A) pendant que
B) lorsque
C) dès que
D) tandis que
5. Quand tu arrives, je suis toujours à l'école. (When you arrive, I'm always at school.)
6. Avant qu'il n'arrive, fermez les portes. (Before he arrives, close the doors.)
7. Après que nous avons mangé, nous sommes allés au cinéma. (After we ate, we went to the cinema.)
8. Define: What is a temporal clause?
9. Define: Difference between quand and lorsque?
10. Define: Do you use indicative or subjunctive with avant que?

Answer Key

1. C) Indicative — Quand introduces simultaneous actions as facts, so indicative is used.
2. C) arrive (subjunctive) — Avant que requires the subjunctive mood.
3. B) Finishing happens before leaving — Après que introduces the prior action (finishing first), then the main action (leaving).
4. C) dès que — Dès que = 'as soon as' — indicates an immediate sequence of events.
5. Temporal conjunction: quand (when) Time relationship: simultaneous action Mood: indicative (fact)
6. Temporal conjunction: avant que (before) Time relationship: prior action Mood: subjunctive (n' is optional in formal style)
7. Temporal conjunction: après que (after) Time relationship: posterior action Mood: indicative or conditional perfect
8. A dependent clause that indicates when an action happens in relation to another event, using French conjunctions like quand, lorsque, avant que, après que.
9. Both mean 'when.' Lorsque is slightly more formal and literary; quand is everyday French.
10. Subjunctive — Avant qu'il (ne) vienne. The ne is optional in modern French.

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