

## 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** Maria can wash the potatoes **while** I chop the onions.

**While** I was on the phone, the TV show started.

**b** **As** I headed out the door, it started to rain.

I heard a loud noise **as** I was crossing the road.

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

### 2 Different times

**a** **EVENT 1**

**First**, I'll wash the potatoes.

She watched TV for a while.

**After** I have washed the potatoes,

**EVENT 2**

**Then**, I'll chop the onions.

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

I'll chop the onions.

**b** **EVENT 2**

I'll chop the onions

I found the message

**Before** I chop the onions,

They ate

**EVENT 1**

**after** I have washed the potatoes.

**when** I arrived home.

I'll wash the potatoes.

**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.