



ACTIVITY 1

In the following sentences, identify which action, event or situation occurred first. The first one has been done for you.

1. Because the agents **had advertised** the film extensively [1], it **was** a huge success. [2]
2. When I met her, Susan had lived in China for three years.
3. Rushing to the airport in the morning made no difference. When I got there I found that I had missed the flight by ten minutes.
4. The law firm had calculated their figures incorrectly on last year's tax return so the firm was required to pay a fine.
5. By the time he got to the ticket outlet, they had closed for the day.
6. The chairman soon realised that another meeting would need to be scheduled because the negotiators had reached a deadlock.
7. When I arrived at work yesterday morning, I could not get into the office because I had left my keys at home.
8. Because the architect had redesigned the panel, the structure was much safer and sturdier now.
9. The performance had just commenced when they took their seats.
10. The CEO called a press conference because the scientist had made significant progress in his research into DNA molecules.



ACTIVITY 2

Decide whether the activity which is underlined happened at the same time, before or after the other activity in the following sentences.

Question 1: Just as I reached the station, the train pulled out.

Answer:
a. same time
b. before
c. after

Question 2: While I was having a shower the telephone rang.

Answer:
a. same time
b. before
c. after

Question 3: As interest rates were increased in the first year of the new government, property prices fell.

Answer:
a. same time
b. before
c. after

Question 4: He filled out the application form once he received his IELTS results.

Answer:
a. same time
b. before
c. after

Question 5: The fishing fleet left the safety of the harbour as soon as the storm subsided.

Answer:
a. same time
b. before
c. after



Question 6: The biscuit mix is placed on the cutter machine and then cut into small bite-sized pieces.

Answer:

- a. same time
- b. before
- c. after

Question 7: I rushed to the post office when I heard my results had arrived.

Answer:

- a. same time
- b. before
- c. after

Question 8: Robert had been studying for three years at Cambridge when I visited him.

Answer:

- a. same time
- b. before
- c. after

Question 9: By the time I arrived at the ticket office all seats had been taken.

Answer:

- a. same time
- b. before
- c. after

Question 10: While the two students both submitted equally strong applications, the academic board had to make a decision and choose only one for the scholarship.

Answer:

- a. same time
- b. before
- c. after



ANSWERS ACTIVITY 1

1. Because the agents **had advertised** the film extensively [1], it **was** a huge success. [2]
2. When I **met** her [2], Susan **had lived** in China for three years. [1]
3. Rushing to the airport in the morning made no difference. When I **got** there [2] I found that I **had missed** the flight by ten minutes. [1]
4. The law firm **had calculated** their figures incorrectly on last year's tax return [1] so the firm **was required** to pay a fine. [2]
5. By the time he **got** to the ticket outlet [2], they **had closed** for the day. [1]
6. The chairman soon **realised** that another meeting would need to be scheduled [2] because the negotiators **had reached** a deadlock.[1]
7. When I **arrived** at work yesterday morning [2], I could not get into the office because I **had left** my keys at home.[1]
8. Because the architect **had redesigned** the panel [1], the structure **was** much safer and sturdier now. [2]
9. The performance **had just commenced** [1] when they **took** their seats. [2]
10. The CEO **called** a press conference [2] because the scientist **had made** significant progress in his research into DNA molecules. [1]



ANSWERS ACTIVITY 2

1. Just as I reached the station, the train pulled out.
 - a. same time

2. While I was having a shower the telephone rang.
 - a. same time

3. As interest rates were increased in the first year of the new government, property prices fell.
 - c. after

4. He filled out the application form once he received his IELTS results.
 - c. after

5. The fishing fleet left the safety of the harbour as soon as the storm subsided.
 - b. before

6. The biscuit mix is placed on the cutter machine and then cut into small bite-sized pieces.
 - b. before

7. I rushed to the post office when I heard my results had arrived.
 - c. after

8. Robert had been studying for three years at Cambridge when I visited him.
 - c. after

9. By the time I arrived at the ticket office all seats had been taken.
 - c. after

10. While the two students both submitted equally strong applications, the academic board had to make a decision and choose only one for the scholarship.
 - b. before