

# As (As I walked along the street ... / As I was hungry ...)

**A**

**As** = at the same time as

You can use **as** when two things happen at the same time:

- We all waved goodbye to Liz **as** she drove away.  
(We **waved** and she **drove** away at the same time)
- As** I walked along the street, I looked in the shop windows.
- Can you turn off the light **as** you go out, please?



Or you can say that something happened **as you were doing** something else (in the middle of doing something else):

- Kate slipped **as she was getting off** the bus.
- We met Paul **as we were leaving** the hotel.

For the *past continuous* (**was getting / were going** etc.), see **Unit 6**.

You can also use **just as** (= exactly at that moment):

- Just as** I sat down, the doorbell rang.
- I had to leave **just as** the conversation was getting interesting.

We also use **as** when two things happen together in a longer period of time:

- As** the day went on, the weather got worse.
- I began to enjoy the job more **as** I got used to it.

*the day went on*

*the weather got worse*

Compare **as** and **when**:

We use **as** only if two things happen at the same time.

- As I drove home**, I listened to music.  
(= at the same time)

Use **when** (*not as*) if one thing happens after another.

- When I got home**, I had something to eat. (*not As I got home*)

**B**

**As** = because

**As** also means 'because':

- As I was hungry**, I decided to find somewhere to eat. (= because I was hungry)
- As we have plenty of time** before our flight, let's go and have a coffee.
- We watched TV all evening **as we didn't have anything better to do**.
- As I don't watch television any more**, I gave my TV to a friend of mine.

You can also use **since** in this way:

- Since** we have plenty of time, let's go and have a coffee.

Compare **as** (= because) and **when**:

- I couldn't contact David **as he was on holiday**. (= because he was on holiday)

- As they lived near us**, we used to see them quite often.  
(= because they lived near us)

- David's passport was stolen **when he was on holiday**.  
(= during the time he was away)

- When they lived near us**, we used to see them quite often.  
(= at the time they lived near us)

# Exercises

## 116.1 (Section A) Use **as** to join sentences from the boxes.

- 1 ~~We all waved goodbye to Liz~~
- 2 I listened
- 3 I burnt myself
- 4 The crowd cheered
- 5 A dog ran out in front of the car

- we were driving along the road
- I was taking a hot dish out of the oven
- ~~she drove away~~
- she told me her story
- the two teams came onto the field

- 1 We all waved goodbye to Liz as she drove away.
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

## 116.2 (Section B) Join sentences from the boxes. Begin each sentence with **as**.

- 1 ~~I was hungry~~
- 2 today is a public holiday
- 3 I didn't want to disturb anybody
- 4 I don't know what to do
- 5 none of us had a watch

- I need some advice
- I was very quiet
- ~~I decided to find somewhere to eat~~
- we didn't know what time it was
- many of the shops are shut

- 1 As I was hungry, I decided to find somewhere to eat.
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

## 116.3 What does **as** mean in these sentences?

- 1 **As** they live near us, we see them quite often.
- 2 Kate slipped **as** she was getting off the bus.
- 3 **As** I was tired, I went to bed early.
- 4 Unfortunately, **as** I was parking the car, I hit the car behind me.
- 5 **As** we climbed the hill, we got more and more tired.
- 6 We decided to go out to eat **as** we had no food at home.
- 7 **As** we don't use the car very often, we've decided to sell it.

<i>because</i>	<i>at the same time as</i>
<u>✓</u>	
	<u>✓</u>

## 116.4 In some of these sentences, you need **when** (not **as**). Correct the sentences where necessary.

- 1 Julia got married as she was 22.
- 2 As the day went on, the weather got worse.
- 3 He dropped the glass as he was taking it out of the cupboard.
- 4 I lost my phone as I was in London.
- 5 As I left school, I didn't know what to do.
- 6 The train slowed down as it approached the station.
- 7 I used to live near the sea as I was a child.

- when she was 22
- OK
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

## 116.5 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences.

- 1 I saw you as .....
- 2 It started to rain just as .....
- 3 As I didn't have enough money for a taxi, .....
- 4 Just as I took the picture, .....