

## as (as I walked ... / as I was ... etc.)

## A as = at the same time as

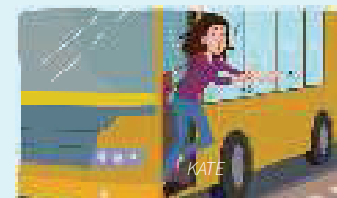
You can use **as** when two things happen together at the same time:

- ☐ 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 it's late and we're tired**, let's get a taxi home. (= because it's late ...)
- ☐ We watched TV all evening **as we didn't have anything better to do**.
- ☐ **As I don't watch TV any more**, I gave my television to a friend of mine.

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

- ☐ **Since** it's late and we're tired, let's get a taxi home.

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

- ☐ David wasn't in the office **as he was on holiday**. (= because he was on holiday)

- ☐ David lost his passport **when he was on holiday**.  
(= during the time he was away)

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

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

## Exercises

**116.1** In this exercise **as** means 'at the same time as'. Use **as** to join sentences from the boxes.

- 1 ~~We all waved goodbye to Liz~~
- 2 I listened
- 3 I burnt myself
- 4 The spectators 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** In this exercise **as** means 'because'. Join sentences from the boxes beginning with **as**.

- 1 ~~I was hungry~~
- 2 today is a public holiday
- 3 I didn't want to disturb anybody
- 4 I can't go to the concert
- 5 it was a nice day

- we went for a walk by the canal  
I tried to be very quiet  
~~I decided to find somewhere to eat~~  
all government offices are shut  
you can have my ticket

- 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?

because      at the same  
                         time as

- 1 **As** they lived near us, we used to 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.

✓	
	✓

**116.4** In some of these sentences, **as** is not correct. 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.
- 8 We can walk to the hotel as it isn't far from here.

when she was 22  
OK

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

- 1 Just as I sat down, the doorbell rang.
- 2 I saw you as .....
- 3 It started to rain just as .....
- 4 As she doesn't have a phone, .....
- 5 Just as I took the picture, .....