

Unit 71: ADVERBS OF TIME

Unit 66 tells you about the position of adverbs generally. This unit shows how to use **ago**, **already**, **late**, **lately**, **later**, **just**, **still**, **then** and **yet** to talk about when.

1

I'll be here again on Friday. (on Friday)

I'll see you **then**.

First, I got up. **Then** I had breakfast. (the second thing I did)

2

It's six o'clock now. The office closed half an hour **ago**. (it closed at half past five)

Use **ago** with past simple formation (Unit 21) only. For other formations, use **before**:

It was six o'clock. The office had closed half an hour **before**.

3

The boss arrived twenty minutes **late**. (after the correct time)

We arrived at nine. The boss arrived twenty minutes **later**. (at 9:20, but there was no correct time to arrive)

I'll see you **later**. (at a time in the future)

I've been ill **lately**. (my illness started a short time ago)

4

I've **just** finished drafting your letter. (a very short time ago)

He's **just** going to leave. (very, very soon)

5

They had **already** finished their meeting when I arrived at nine. (they met before nine; by nine they had finished)

6

Is he **still** on the phone? (I know he was on the phone; what about now?)

Is he on the phone **yet**? (I know he was not on the phone; what about now?)

She hasn't finished it **yet**. (= She is **still** doing it.)