

UNIT 12 until, till

'until' and 'till' are used in the same manner. They are used to show that an action or event will begin only when an earlier action or event ends.

'until' can sometimes be used to begin a sentence. However, 'till' is usually used in the middle of a sentence.

Example A

I will wait here for Mary to turn up.

Answer 1

I will wait here **until** Mary turns up.

Answer 2

I will wait here **till** Mary turns up.

NOTE:

Both answers are almost identical. Note that the word 'turn' in the given sentence has been changed to 'turns'. This is necessary as 'to' has been left out and 'turns' now follows the singular Mary.

Example B

We will buy new books. You have to finish reading all your old books first.

Answer

Until you finish reading all your old books, we will not buy new ones.

NOTE:

In some cases, such as Example B, the opposite information is given in the answer for part of the sentence. In this case, the answer has to reflect the information that the old books have to be read before new books can be bought.

EXERCISE

For each question, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

20

1. The bears will wake from hibernation when spring arrives.
 _____ until

2. Only when you finish your work can you watch television.
 _____ until

3. Mother only knew that we cooked her breakfast when she entered the kitchen.
 _____ till

4. Mandy pestered Father with her request. Father gave in at last.
 _____ until

- *5. Once I start the clock, start singing. You can only stop singing when time runs out.
 _____ till

6. It is night now. The sun will rise tomorrow.
 _____ till

7. Let the cake cool before you ice it
 _____ until

8. Nathan refuses to leave the room. You have to accept his apology first.
 Until _____

9. Thomas will not give up. Thomas is determined to get to the bottom of the mystery.
 Until _____

- *10. The boys had no choice but to stop swimming when the sudden downpour started.
 _____ until
