

Expressing “when” and “while” (saat, ketika, kapan, sedangkan, etc)

We can say “when” about something that is true *in general*. For this purpose, we use ‘saat’, ‘ketika’ or ‘kalau’. Example:

* **Saat / Ketika / Kalau** cuaca baik, saya berjalan kaki ke sekolah.

When the weather’s good, I walk to school. [i.e., whenever the weather’s good, not just one time]

We can also say “when” about an event or state in the *future*. For this purpose, too, we use ‘saat’, ‘ketika’ or ‘kalau’. Example:

* **Saat / Ketika / Kalau** tamat sekolah nanti, saya mau bekerja di luar negeri.

When I finish school, I’m going to work overseas.

We can also say “when” about an event or state in the *past*. For that purpose, we use ‘saat’ or ‘ketika’ or ‘waktu’. Examples:

* **Saat / Ketika/ Waktu** mobil berhenti, saya turun. **When** the car stopped, I got out.

* Dia lebih bahagia **saat/ ketika/ waktu** masih kecil. She was happier **when** she was a child.

“Kapan” is used to ask a *question* about when. **Kapan** mereka pulang? **When** are they going home?

If the question is indirect (i.e. inside a sentence) we still use “kapan”. Example:

* Saya tidak tahu **kapan** mereka pulang. I don’t know **when** they are going home.

“Sambil” is used to say “while” about two actions done simultaneously by a person. Examples:

* Saya suka mendengarkan musik **sambil** membaca. I like to listen to music **while** I’m reading.

* **Sambil** berjalan dia melihat burung-burung. **While** she was walking she looked at the birds.

Note: we don’t mention the subject after “sambil” (e.g. “sambil ~~saya~~ membaca”; “Sambil ~~dia~~ berjalan”) because it is mentioned in the other clause.

“Sedangkan” or “sementara” can be used to say “while” about actions by different people. Example:

* Saya bekerja di kebun **sedangkan** mereka membersihkan rumah. (or “sementara”)

I worked in the garden **while** they cleaned the house.

These words “sedangkan” and “sementara” are not only used about two *actions*. Often they link two ideas instead. Example:

* Kita bebas berbicara tentang dia, **sementara** dia bebas juga berbicara tentang kita. (or “sedangkan”)

We’re free to talk about him, **while** he’s free to talk about us too.

If the two linked ideas contrast strongly, then the meaning is like “whereas”. Example:

* Di Indonesia bagian Barat sebagian besar penduduk beragama Islam, **sedangkan** di bagian Timur umat Islam lebih sedikit. (or “sementara”)

In western Indonesia most people are Moslems, **while/ whereas** in the eastern part there are fewer Moslems.

These words “sedangkan” and “sementara” can also be placed at the start of the sentence.

* **Sedangkan** saya bekerja di kebun, mereka membersihkan rumah.

* **Sementara** kita bebas berbicara tentang dia, dia bebas juga berbicara tentang kita.

Exercise 1. Say it using ‘saat’, ‘ketika’, ‘kalau’, ‘waktu’ or ‘kapan’ as appropriate. (When there are multiple correct options, choose any one you like.)

1. **Saat / Ketika / Waktu melihat maling** , dia berteriak.
When she saw the thief, she yelled.
2. _____ ke Brisbane?
When are you going to Brisbane?
3. _____ *nanti* saya akan mencari flat baru.
When I return I'll look for a new flat.
4. _____ , dia suka berburu.
When he was still young, he liked to hunt.
5. Gatot marah _____.
Gatot was angry when I borrowed his bike.
6. _____ , dia suka mengobrol dengan sopir.
When she takes a taxi, she often chats with the driver.
7. Saya tidak memberi *tip* _____.
I didn't give a tip when he carried my suitcase.
8. Giginya terasa sakit _____.
Her tooth hurts when she eats.
9. _____ , awas pencopet.
When you walk around in that area, watch out for pickpockets.
10. Dia ingin tahu _____.
She wants to know when she can start work.
11. _____ , dia merasa bingung.
When he arrived, he felt confused.
12. Dia bertanya _____.
She asked when I had lived in Jakarta.
13. Dia merasa senang _____.
He feels happy when he sees children playing.
14. _____ meninggalkan kantor?
When did you leave the office?
15. Anda dapat memilih _____.
You can choose when, and where, you study.
16. _____ , kita bisa berbicara.
When the music stops we can talk.

Exercise 2. Insert “sambil” or “sedangkan/sementara”, as appropriate.

1. Diah menganggukkan kepala sambil tersenyum.
2. _____ menonton pertandingan, Iwan mendengarkan musik.
3. Pak Samil duduk enak _____ isterinya mencuci piring.
4. Saski menangis _____ membaca surat dari pacar.
5. Mereka berbicara dan tertawa-tawa _____ berjalan pulang.
6. _____ mereka mencari hotel, saya tinggal di terminal bus.
7. Kami menunggu di luar _____ pembantu membersihkan kamar.

Exercise 3. Complete each sentence using ‘sedangkan / sementara’.

1. Erna sangat pintar, sedangkan / sementara adiknya tak kalah pintarnya.
Erna's very smart, while her younger brother is equally smart.
2. _____, _____ untuk menang diperlukan 60 suara.
Hendro got 50 votes, while 60 votes were needed to win.
3. Bandung terletak di Jawa Barat, _____
Bandung is in West Java while Malang is in East Java.
4. _____, _____ lahan pertanian sangat terbatas.
The number of farmers is very large, while farmland is very limited.
5. Jepang memberi bantuan \$50 juta _____.
Japan gave \$50 million dollars in aid while Australia gave \$20 million.
6. _____ kabar dari Tono lebih baik lagi.
The news from Edo is good, while news from Tono is even better.
7. Anak-anak ini sakit demam _____.
These children have a fever, while there's no doctor in the village.
8. _____ dalam kamus hanya ada kata “mempunyai”.
He uses the word “memunyai”, while in the dictionary there is only the word “mempunyai”.
9. Calon suaminya beragama Islam _____
Her husband-to-be is Muslim, while she is Christian.

10. _____ nafsu makannya juga sudah kembali normal.

She is feeling stronger, while her appetite has also returned to normal.

11. Jalannya berlubang-lubang, _____.

The road is full of potholes, while our car is very old.

Exercise 4. Complete the sentence using an idea of your own.

1. Harga sepatu ini Rp 200.000 sedangkan ***harga sandal hanya Rp 50.000 saja*** _____.

2. Minah menerima sepeda baru, sedangkan _____.

3. Dia terpaksa berjalan jauh sambil _____.

4. _____, sementara provinsi Riau lebih makmur.

5. “Bangsat!” teriaknya sambil _____.

6. Anak itu tak bisa berbahasa Cina, sedangkan _____.

7. “Sudah jam sepuluh” katanya, sambil _____.

8. _____, sedangkan hanya ada satu masjid.

9. Mereka bernyanyi dan mengobrol sambil _____.

10. Jumlah kursi hanya cukup untuk 10 orang, sementara _____.

Answer Key is on next page

Answer Key

Exercise 1 (2) Kapan Anda pergi (3) Saat/Ketika/Kalau saya kembali (4) Saat/Ketika/Waktu dia masih muda (5) saat/ketika/waktu saya meminjam sepedanya. (6) Saat/Ketika/Kalau naik taksi (7) saat/ketika/waktu dia membawa(kan) koper saya. (8) saat/ketika/kalau dia makan. (9) Saat/Ketika/Kalau berjalan-jalan di kawasan itu (10) kapan dia bisa mulai bekerja. (11) Saat/Ketika/Waktu dia tiba (12) kapan saya tinggal di Jakarta. (13) saat/ketika/kalau melihat anak-anak bermain. (14) Kapan Anda (15) kapan dan di mana Anda belajar. (16) Saat/Ketika/Kalau musiknya berhenti

Exercise 2. Note: *sedangkan / sementara are interchangeable in this exercise.*

(2) sambil (3) sedangkan (4) sambil (5) sambil (6) sementara (7) sedangkan

Exercise 3. Note: *sedangkan / sementara are interchangeable in this exercise.*

(2) Hendro mendapatkan 50 suara, sedangkan (3) sementara Malang terletak di Jawa Timur. (4) Jumlah petani sangat banyak, sementara (5) sedangkan Australia memberikan \$20 juta. (6) Kabar dari Edo itu baik, sementara (7) sedangkan tidak ada dokter di desa ini. (8) Dia menggunakan kata “memunyai”, sementara (9) sedangkan dia beragama Kristen. (10) Dia sudah merasa lebih kuat, sementara (11) sedangkan mobil kami sudah sangat tua.

Exercise 4. NB: *Example answers only.* (2) sedangkan Riko hanya menerima sebuah bolpoin.

(3) sambil membawa beban yang berat (4) Provinsi ini masih miskin, sementara (5) sambil memukul Ari berkali-kali. (6) sedangkan kakaknya bisa. (7) sambil melihat jam tangan. (8) Banyak Muslim tinggal di daerah itu, sedangkan (9) sambil mencuci baju di sungai. (10) sementara banyak tamu yang akan datang.