Handout 1: Adverbial Clauses of Time

Adverbs of time are such words as ‘before’, ‘after’, ‘when’, ‘while’, ‘until’ and ‘as soon as’ used to show the time link between two actions.

This morning, I got up as soon as the alarm clock rang at 6:10 a.m. I had breakfast after I had brushed my teeth. I got dressed before I left home. I waited in the MTR station until the train arrived. I read a book while I was traveling on the train. I went to the library when I arrived at school.

Exercise 1: Please complete these sentences with the appropriate adverb of time.

1. He cleaned his teeth _________ he went to bed.

2. The ambulance arrived at the scene five minutes _________ the accident had happened.

3. _________ I am older, I want to start my own business.

4. I went straight to the hospital _________ I heard about your accident.

5. They watched the programme _________ the end even though it was not very interesting.

6. They took short breaks every half an hour _________ they were playing tennis.

7. Rebecca went to bed _________ she got home because she was so tired.

8. People should be very careful _________ they cross busy roads.

9. We cannot light the barbecue _________ the rain stops.

10. Paul found somebody’s wallet on the ground _________ he was walking to the bus stop.