

Is it 'when', or is it 'went'?

'When' and 'went' sound the same, so how can you tell which is the right one to use?

Read this story

Yesterday I went to town on the bus. When I was waiting at the bus stop a lady came up to me and said, "Was it you who went to Caerphilly last week when it was raining hard? If it was you, I have your umbrella. You must have dropped it when the bus skidded to a stop!"

"I think it was me," I replied. "When I went to look for it in my bag, I couldn't find it. When would I be able to have it back? It is a very special umbrella, because I bought it when I went to New York."

"Here it is," said the lady. "I thought I might see you when I catch this bus!"

How many times has the word 'when' been used in the story?

How many times has the word 'went' been used in the story?

Is it 'when', or is it 'went'?

When

'When' is used when we are talking about a time in the past

E.g. I met him when he was six.

or

When we ask what time something will happen.

E.g. When does this session finish?

It might help to remember the group of question words:

Who, what, why, which, where, and WHEN!

Went

'Went' is the past tense of the verb 'go'.

I go to class on a Monday.

I went to class last Monday.

Now try the exercises on the next page.

Is it 'when', or is it 'went'?

Underline the correct word in each sentence or question.

1. Went/When will you be going on holiday?
2. I when/went on holiday last month.
3. The tutor tells us went/when to have a break.
4. Last week, my whole family when/went to a restaurant for a birthday meal.
5. You can always tell went/when she is in a bad mood.
6. When/Went I when/went to town last week I when/went into Primark.
7. I hope I will understand these two words when/went I have finished this!
8. Sometimes, when/went it is quiet, you can hear the wind blowing in the trees.

Is it 'when', or is it 'went'?

Put the word 'when' or 'went' in the spaces.

1. There is a time _____ everyone gets tired.
2. Last week, the whole class _____ to the cinema.
3. _____ everyone gets here, we will start the lesson.
4. I hate it _____ no-one turns up on time for important meetings.
5. I always try to be home _____ my daughter comes in from school.
6. I watched the girl as she _____ running across a busy road.
7. _____ I _____ to see my mother last week, we _____ to Starbucks for a coffee
8. _____ will I see you again?

