

## Als, wenn oder wann?

To express the English *when*, German uses three words: **als**, **wenn**, and **wann**.

1. **Wann** always asks the question “at what time?”, either directly:

**Wann kommst du?** *When (at what time?) are you coming?*

or indirectly:

**Ich möchte wissen, wann du kommst.** *I'd like to know when (at what time) you're coming.*

2. **Als** and **wenn** are used to link two (or more) events to each other, rather than asking a single question.

3. **Als** is almost invariably used with the NARRATIVE PAST, and refers either to a single point in time:

**Als er kam, gingen wir zum Hotel.** *When he arrived we went to the hotel.*

or to an extended, uninterrupted period of time:

**Als ich 21 war, bekam ich mein erstes Auto.** *When I was 21 I got my first car.*

4. **Wenn** is the general “when” word in German, and can refer to the present:

**Wenn er kommt, bleibt er bei uns.** *When(ever) he comes he stays with us.*

the future:

**Wenn er kommt, bleibt er bei uns.** *When he comes, he'll stay with us.*

or to express the English *if*:

**Wenn er kommt, bleibt er bei uns.** *If he comes, he'll stay with us.*

When **wenn** is used with the NARRATIVE PAST, it always implies the English *whenever*:

**Wenn er kam, blieb er bei uns.** *When(ever) he came, he stayed with us.*

### Express in German:

1. I'd like to know when I'll see you.
2. When Mr. Lemon was young, he began to study German.
3. When the students are tired, they can't do their homework.
4. Whenever the weather was good, we always stayed outside.
5. When did they find you, Paul?
6. When she came to our party she wore that red dress.
7. Can you tell me when the next bus comes?
8. The hotel was full when we arrived.
9. When I'm older I can buy a car.
10. If Mr. Lemon doesn't come today, we'll go to Blake.