Use of: By the time.....

The structure "By the time...." is used when one wants to express which one of the two actions took place first and what came second.

Note1:

- By the time is normally followed by the second action.

Note 2:

- If the actions are in the past simple, the sentence is expressed in the past perfect tense.

Examples

1) The poacher ran away before the police came.

   By the time the police came, the poacher had run away.

   The poacher had run away by the time the police came.

2) We had lunch before we gathered the litter.

   By the time we gathered the litter, we had had lunch.

   We had had lunch by the time we gathered the litter.

Note 3:

- If the actions are in the future simple tense, the first sentence is expressed in the future perfect tense and the second in the present simple tense.

Examples

1) We shall go on a tour before we break up for second term holidays.

   By the time we break up for second term holidays, we shall have gone on a tour.

   We shall have gone on a tour by the time we break up for second term holidays.

2) Mother will return home in the evening. I will finish her work at noon.

   By the time mother returns home, I will have finished her work.

   I will have finished mother's work by the time she returns home.

3) We shall eat supper at 8:00p.m. My father will come at 10:00p.m.

   By the time my father comes, we shall have eaten supper.

   We shall have eaten supper by the time my father comes.

More examples

1) We shall take breakfast in the morning. (Begin: By the time.....)

   By noon, we shall have taken breakfast.

2) Having shaken the medicine, the patient took it. (Begin: By the time.....)

   By the time the patient took the medicine, she had shaken it.

   The patient had shaken the medicine by the time she took it.

3) We shall do forty questions before the bell rings.

   By the time the bell rings, we shall have done forty questions.

   We shall have done forty questions by the time the bell rings.

4) Many people saw the robber and then he varnished.

   By the time the robber varnished, many people had seen him.

5) Many people had seen the robber by the time he varnished.

   The patient will go at midday. The doctor will come at 3:00p.m

6) By the time the doctor comes, the patient will have gone.

   The patient will have gone by the time the doctor comes.

Exercise:

Rewrite using: "By the time"

1) I will go before Aisha comes

2) The taxi left before the passenger reached the stage.

3) Lunch will be served at 2:00p.m. We shall watch a video afterwards.

4) We ate lunch after having a meeting.
5) I shall do the work before the teacher comes.
6) The timekeeper rang the bell before the teacher-on-duty arrived at school.
7) The teacher will come to our class before we finish the revision exercise.
8) I saw a python and then it burst.

Use each of the word in the brackets to complete the sentence.

9) By midday, the guest of honour_____.(arrive)
10) By the time I saw her, she_____the cake.(bakery)
11) By December, we shall_____our PLE. (sit)
12) The accident_____by the time the cows crossed the main road. (occur)

Answers

1) By the time Aisha comes, I will have gone.
2) By the time the passenger reached the stage, the taxi had left.
3) By the time we watch a video, lunch will have been served.
4) By the time we ate lunch, we had had a meeting.
5) I shall have done the work by the time the teacher comes.
6) The timekeeper had rung the bell by the time the teacher-on-duty arrived at school.
7) The teacher will have come to our class by the time we finished the revision exercise.
8) I had seen a python by the time it burst.
9) will have arrived
10) had baked
11) have sat
12) had occured

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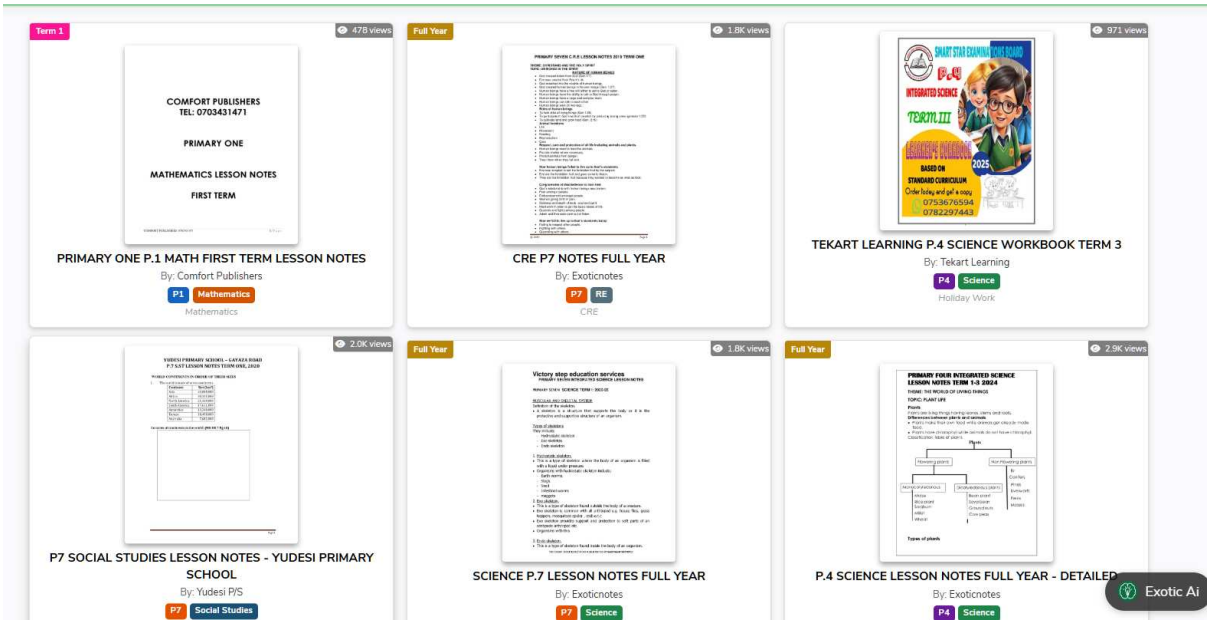
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Tr. Bright Nicholas, 0783681148 / 0702040675



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