

Time Markers: Still, Yet, Already, Any More, & No Longer

INTERMEDIATE

Focus: Continuing situations, Mid-sentence position, Meaning 'in spite of this', Negative sentence structures, End-of-sentence placement, Spelling: any more vs anymore, Mid-sentence word order, Replacing 'not... any more', Formal vs informal usage, Negative sentences and questions

1. "Still" (Continuing Situations)

We use **still** to say that a situation or action is continuing. It hasn't changed or stopped.

- **Position:** Usually in the **middle** of the sentence (before the main verb, but after *to be* or auxiliary verbs).
 - *She is **still** asleep.* (after 'be')
 - *I **still** live in London.* (before main verb)
- **Negative Structure:** *Still* can be used in negative sentences to show surprise or impatience. Note the position: before the negative auxiliary.
 - *I **still** haven't finished my work.* (Emphasis: I should have finished by now).
- **Meaning "In spite of this":** We can use *still* to show that something happens despite something else.
 - *He felt sick, but he **still** went to work.*

2. "Any more" / "Any longer" vs. "No longer" (Changed Situations)

We use these to talk about a situation that has ended or changed.

A. Not ... any more / Not ... any longer

- Used in **negative** sentences.
- **Position:** At the **end** of the sentence.
 - *She doesn't work here **any more**.*
 - *We aren't friends **any longer**.*
- **Spelling Note:** In British English, *any more* is two words. In American English, *anymore* is often one word. Both are common, but "any more" is safer for formal writing.

B. No longer

- Used in **affirmative** sentences (because "no" makes it negative).
- **Style:** More **formal** than *not... any more*.
- **Position: Middle** of the sentence (before the main verb, after *to be*).
 - *She **no longer** works here.* (Equivalent to: She doesn't work here any more).

3. "Yet" (Expectations)

We use **yet** when we are waiting for something to happen or expecting it.

- Used in **Negative sentences** and **Questions**.
- **Position:** At the **end** of the sentence.
 - *Have you arrived **yet**?* (Question)
 - *I haven't done my homework **yet**.* (Negative)

4. "Already" (Early Occurrences)

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected.

- Used mainly in **Affirmative sentences**. Can be used in **Questions** to show surprise.
- **Position: Middle** of the sentence (between auxiliary and main verb) or sometimes at the end for emphasis.
 - *I have **already** told him.*
 - *Have you **already** eaten?* (Surprise: I didn't expect you to eat so soon).

Practice

Instruction: Complete the sentences using **still, yet, already, any more, any longer, or no longer**. Read the context carefully to decide which word fits best.

1. I am hungry! Is dinner ready _____ ?
2. She used to be a teacher, but she doesn't work at the school _____ .
3. Look at the time! It is _____ 11:00 PM; we need to go home.
4. He _____ lives with his parents, even though he is thirty years old.
5. I have checked the flight status, but the plane hasn't landed _____ .
6. Mr. Smith _____ works for this company; he resigned last week. (Formal)
7. Do you _____ play basketball on weekends, or did you stop?
8. We have _____ bought the tickets, so we don't need to worry about them.
9. I'm sorry, we don't sell that product _____ . It was discontinued.
10. Even though it was raining heavily, they _____ decided to go for a walk.
11. Has John called you _____ ? I am worried about him.
12. Sarah isn't a child _____ ; she is a young adult now.
13. I _____ haven't found my keys! I've been looking for an hour.
14. They are _____ friends. They had a huge argument and stopped speaking. (Formal)
15. Wow! Have you _____ finished the test? That was very fast!

Answer Key

1. **yet** (Question, expectation at the end)
2. **any more / any longer** (Negative sentence, situation changed, at the end)
3. **already** (Happened sooner than expected / emphasis on current state)
4. **still** (Continuing situation, mid-sentence)
5. **yet** (Negative sentence, expectation at the end)
6. **no longer** (Formal, mid-sentence, implies negative without "not")
7. **still** (Question asking about continuity)
8. **already** (Action completed sooner/before now, mid-sentence)
9. **any more / any longer** (Negative sentence, at the end)
10. **still** (Meaning "in spite of the rain")
11. **yet** (Question, expectation at the end)
12. **any longer / any more** (Negative sentence, situation changed)
13. **still** (Negative structure emphasizing impatience/surprise "still haven't")
14. **no longer** (Formal, mid-sentence, implies negative)
15. **already** (Question expressing surprise that it happened so soon)