

Comparing similar time words

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

vs — “after” vs “when / while”

Both attach to a time or event, but they pin different moments. means “**after** (something)” — the action follows it. means “**when / while** (something is happening)” — the action lands *during* it.

{zh: |dǎ|playing / |lán qiú|basketball / |de shí hou|while / |huì|will / |chū hàn|sweat / 。 }

You sweat while playing basketball.

{zh: |dǎ wán|after finishing / |lán qiú|basketball / |yǐ hòu|after / |yào|need to / |xǐ zǎo|shower / 。 }

After finishing basketball, you need to shower.

Remember: = **DURING** (when/while); = **AFTER**. The verb tells you which: an *ongoing* verb takes (), a *completed* one takes () — note the result word that signals “finished.”

Watch out

- (“while eating”) vs (“after eating”) — the is the tell that you’ve crossed into territory.