

NOT UNTIL

When A happened before B, we use: **It was not until A ... that B...** We use Past Simple/Past Perfect for A, and Past Simple for B. Sometimes, A can be a Time phrase.

It was not until	S + had + V₃	S + V₂
	S + V₂	that
	Time phrase	
	A	B

Example: They finally locked the door after the last customer had left.

It was not until *the last customer had left* **that they finally locked the door.** _____

After the course, he finally knew how to work with Excel sheets.

It was not until *after the course* **that he finally knew how to work with Excel sheets.** _____

Not until	S + had + V₃	
	S + V₂	<Inversion>
	Time phrase	
	A	B

Example: They finally locked the door after the last customer had left.

Not until *the last customer had left* **DID THEY FINALLY LOCK the door.** _____

After the course, he finally knew how to work with Excel sheets.

Not until *after the course* **DID HE FINALLY KNOW how to work with Excel sheets.** _____

Similar rules apply when we use **Not until** in the future. We use Present Perfect/Present Simple for A, and modal verbs for B.

Not until	S + have/has + V₃	
	S + V₁	<Inversion>
	Time phrase	
	A	B

Example: You can leave when the next-shift staff takes over.

Not until *the next-shift staff takes over* **CAN YOU LEAVE.** _____

Once we're done with this, we will move onto the next section.

Not until *we're done with this* **WILL WE MOVE onto the next section.** _____

Not until can also be replaced by **Only when/Only after/Only once**.

Example: You can leave when the next-shift staff takes over.

Only when *the next-shift staff takes over* **CAN YOU LEAVE.** _____

Once we're done with this, we will move onto the next section.

Only once *we're done with this* **WILL WE MOVE onto the next section.** _____