

English Grammar: “not yet” vs “still”

The words “**yet**” and “**still**” both translate to “*ainda*” but “**yet**” is used in negative phrases, and “**still**” in positive phrases.

1. NOT YET – something will happen

The words “**not yet**” are used to say that something will happen, but we don’t know when. The word “**yet**” is always put at the end of a negative sentence.

Examples: A: Did John pass his driving test? B: I don’t know **yet**.
 I didn’t finish my homework **yet**.
 A: Where is John? B: He didn’t **get up yet**.
 A: Can we go now? B: No, the rain didn’t stop **yet**.
 In an online meeting: I can’t see you **yet**.

The words “**Not yet**” can be used as a reply to a question.

Examples: Did you do your homework? Yes, I did. / **Not yet**.
 Did John get up? Yes, he did. / **Not yet**.
 Do you know the result of your test? Yes, I do. / **Not yet**.

2. STILL – something is continuing

The word “**still**” is used to indicate that something is continuing and is not finished. It is usually used in positive sentences.

Examples: A: Where is your wife? B: My wife is **still** here.
 A: Is Bob autonomous? B: No, he **still** works for Google.
 A: Why are you late? B: I am **still** waiting for the bus.
 A: Why doesn’t Peter answer his phone? B: He is **still** on the plane.
 A: Where is your husband? B: He is **still** working. He has a very busy job!

Exercise. Complete using “still” or “yet”:

- 1) A: Where are you? B: I am _____ waiting for the doctor!
- 2) I didn’t finish the project _____ .
- 3) A: Did she finish making the cakes ? B: Not _____ .
- 4) A: Are you _____ watching TV? B: Yes, I’m not sleepy _____ .
- 5) A: Does your brother _____ work at Barney’s restaurant ? B: Yes, he does.
- 6) I am _____ undecided about what to do after university.