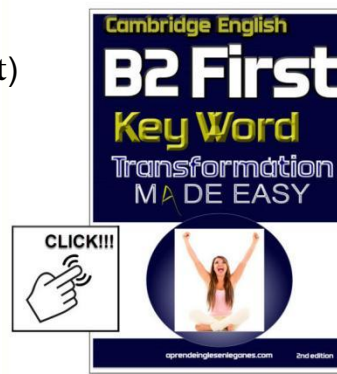


BY THE TIME (that)

Phrase - Not later than the time mentioned.

We use by the time meaning 'when', to connect an action that has happened or will have happened before a second action. The action that happened second comes after by the time :



B2 FIRST
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Key Word
Transformation
exercises

[action 2]	[action 1]
By the time you wake up,	I'll have finished work!
[action 1]	[action 2]
Unfortunately the man had died	by the time the ambulance arrived.
[action 2]	[action 1]
By the time we arrived,	the other guests were already there.
[action 2]	[action 1]
By the time I got to the station,	the train had already gone.
[action 2]	[action 1]
By the time we got home	we were tired and hungry.

common mistake

If a time phrase begins with by the time (that), then the verb that follows the time phrase must be in the present simple, not in the future simple.

- ✗ Is he on his way? By the time he ~~will~~ get here, the party will have finished!
- ✓ Is he on his way? By the time he gets here, the party will have finished!
- ✗ By the time you ~~will~~ wake up, I'll have finished work!
- ✓ By the time you wake up, I'll have finished work!

By now	By + time
before this moment, before now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonia should have been home by now. Do you think she's OK? • The meeting should have finished by now. • She should have been back by now. She's been gone for more than an hour. 	not later than; at or before: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She had promised to be back by five o'clock. • The documents need to be ready by next Friday. • By the end of the day we had sold over 2,000 ticket.

By then / by that time	By this time
before a specified time or before a certain event occurs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'll call you tomorrow - I should have the details by then. • Call again next week. They should have reached a decision by then. • I'll drive straight back home after the meeting ; I hope it won't have grown dark by that time. 	already ; before this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By this time, they'd both left. • He's usually awake by this time. • By this time, I'm usually tucked up in bed, asleep. before a specific time in the past or future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By this time next week , we'll be in New York. • By this time last year, I had already graduated from college.