

Time Phrases

“...the system shall record the state at the point in time the FREEZE occurred with...”

“The FREEZE occurred” is used to give a time. This method of specifying can be used anywhere a time noun is used – the time noun can support a clause. Some words, such as “point” can also support a time clause.

We could substitute When for “at the point in time”, but it is not always a direct substitution:

At the time, I was busy.

This refers back to a time in a previous sentence - “When I was busy” means something else.

“...the system shall record the state at the point the FREEZE occurred with...”

At the time we were having dinner.

We were having dinner at the time.

We were having dinner at the time the earthquake struck.

The earthquake struck at the time we were having dinner.

For both of these sentences, we could turn “at the time” into an equivalent of When – a TimeSubordinatePhrase.

We could have

PrepositionalTimePhrase as an analogue of PrepositionalNounPhrase

And

TimePrepositionalPhrase as an alternative of InterimPrepositionalPhrase

At the point in time the wound heals, liability ceases.

In time the wound will heal.

The wound will heal in time to play.

We can't be sure we have a time clause:

The system shall record the state at the point in time the FREEZE occurred.

If help arrives in time we are saved.

We have two cases here:

SimpleClause TimeClause

SubordinateClause SuperordinateClause