

Unit 107

Still and yet

Any more / any longer / no longer

a Still and yet

We use **still** to say that a situation or action is continuing. **Still** usually goes in the middle of the sentence with the verb (see **Unit 106b** for the exact position):

- It's 10 o'clock and Tom is **still** in bed.
- 'Have you given up smoking?' 'No, I **still** smoke.'
- Are you **still** living in the same house or have you moved?
- When I went to bed, Ann was **still** working.
- Do you **still** want to go to the party or have you changed your mind?

We use **yet** when we ask if something has happened or when we say that something has not happened. We use **yet** mainly in questions and negative sentences. **Yet** usually goes at the end of the sentence:

- I'm hungry. Is dinner ready **yet**?
- Have you finished writing that letter **yet**?
- It's 10 o'clock and Tom hasn't got up **yet**. (or ... isn't up **yet**.)
- We don't know where we're going for our holidays **yet**.

We often use **yet** with the *present perfect* ('Have you finished writing that letter **yet**?'). See also **Unit 15b**.

Now compare **still** and **yet** in these sentences:

- Jack lost his job a year ago and he **is still** unemployed.
- Jack lost his job a year ago and **hasn't found** another job **yet**.
- **Is it still raining?**
- **Has it stopped raining yet?**

Still is also possible in *negative* sentences:

- He said he would be here an hour ago and he **still hasn't** come.

This is similar to 'he **hasn't** come **yet**'. But **still ... not** shows a stronger feeling of surprise or impatience. Compare:

- She **hasn't** written to me **yet**. (but I expect she will write soon)
- She **still hasn't** written to me. (she should have written before now)

b We use **not ... any more**, **not ... any longer** and **no longer** to say that a situation has changed. **Any more** and **any longer** go at the end of the sentence:

- Mr Davies doesn't work here **any more** (or **any longer**). He left about six months ago.
- We were good friend once but we aren't friends **any more** (or **any longer**).

No longer goes in the middle of the sentence (see **Unit 106b**):

- We are **no longer** friends.
- She **no longer** loves him.

We do not normally use **no more** in this way:

- He is **no longer** a student. (not 'He is no more a student')

