

Reduced Time Adverb Clauses

While ~~I~~ was walking to school, ~~I~~ met my friend.
Before ~~we~~ ^{going} went to class, ~~we~~ got some coffee and talked.
After ~~I~~ ^{finishing} finished classes, ~~I~~ went to the library.
Since ~~I~~ ^{coming} came to this country, ~~I~~ ve made many friends.
While ~~I~~ was taking a test, ~~the teacher~~ graded some papers. } no change
different subjects!

Reduce time adverb clauses in the following story, *if possible*.

Before I came to this country, I studied English for many years. While I was Taking English classes at home, I didn't have much chance to practice speaking English. After I moved to the United States, I needed to speak English a lot with native speakers.

At first it was very difficult for me to understand Americans. While they were speaking, I had trouble understanding their fast speech. After I was here for a few months, I started understanding more fast spoken English. Since I moved to a host family, I've had a lot more practice with regular spoken English. While my host sister and brother were playing with their toys last weekend, I listened carefully. Now I feel more comfortable while I am speaking in English.

After I pass the TOEFL® test or finish the ESL program, I'm going to take regular classes. I know it will be difficult, but I'll try my best. I think I've made a lot of progress since I came here.