When a transmission is taking place, a write instruction to the USART_DR register stores the data in the TDR register and which is copied in the shift register at the end of the current transmission.

When no transmission is taking place, a write instruction to the USART_DR register places the data directly in the shift register, the data transmission starts, and the TXE bit is immediately set.

If a frame is transmitted (after the stop bit) and the TXE bit is set, the TC bit goes high. An interrupt is generated if the TCIE bit is set in the USART_CR1 register.

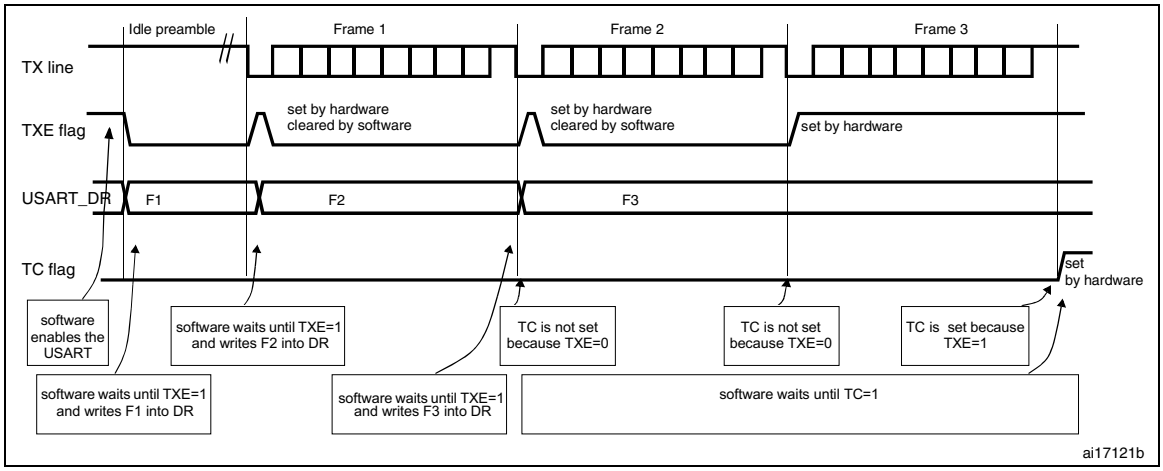
After writing the last data into the USART_DR register, it is mandatory to wait for TC=1 before disabling the USART or causing the microcontroller to enter the low-power mode (see *Figure 281: TC/TXE behavior when transmitting*).

The TC bit is cleared by the following software sequence:

1. A read from the USART_SR register
2. A write to the USART_DR register

Note: The TC bit can also be cleared by writing a '0' to it. This clearing sequence is recommended only for Multibuffer communication.

Figure 281. TC/TXE behavior when transmitting



Break characters

Setting the SBK bit transmits a break character. The break frame length depends on the M bit (see *Figure 279*).

If the SBK bit is set to '1' a break character is sent on the TX line after completing the current character transmission. This bit is reset by hardware when the break character is completed (during the stop bit of the break character). The USART inserts a logic 1 bit at the end of the last break frame to guarantee the recognition of the start bit of the next frame.

Note: If the software resets the SBK bit before the commencement of break transmission, the break character will not be transmitted. For two consecutive breaks, the SBK bit should be set after the stop bit of the previous break.

Idle characters

Setting the TE bit drives the USART to send an idle frame before the first data frame.