

## If...not and unless; if and whether; etc.

## If...not and unless

**A** Unless is used in conditional sentences with the meaning 'except if':

- ☐ You can't travel on this train **unless** you have a reservation.

With **unless** we use present tenses when we talk about the future:

- ☐ **Unless** it rains, I'll pick you up at 6.00. (*not Unless it will rain...*)

**B** In *real* conditional sentences, we can often use either **unless** or **if...not** with a similar meaning:

- ☐ **Unless** the theatre is able to raise £100,000, it will have to close. (*or If the theatre isn't able to...; implies 'it will have to close only if it can't raise the money'*)

However, we use **if...not** but not **unless** –

- ☆ when we say in the main clause that an event or action in the *if*-clause is unexpected:

- ☐ I'll be amazed **if** Christie doesn't win.

- ☆ usually in questions:

- ☐ **If** you don't pass the test, what will you do?

- ☆ when the 'only if' implication does not apply:

- ☐ **If** it wasn't the best performance of *Hamlet* I've seen, it was certainly the strangest.

We usually use **if...not** rather than **unless** in *unreal* conditional sentences:

- ☐ **If** I weren't so tired, I'd give you a hand.

However, **unless** can be used in *unreal* conditional sentences when the main clause is negative:

- ☐ She wouldn't have gone to university **unless** her parents had insisted.

We use **unless** but not **if...not** –

- ☆ when we introduce an afterthought:

- ☐ We can leave now – **unless** you'd rather wait for Jack, of course.

- ☆ when a relative clause refers back to a positive phrase:

- ☐ We can walk to the cinema **unless** it's raining, in which case we'll get a taxi.

## If and whether

**C** We can use **if** or **whether** to say that two possibilities have been talked or thought about, or to say that people are not sure about something:

- ☐ They couldn't decide **if/whether** it was worth re-sitting the exam.
- ☐ Do you know **if/whether** Ben's at home?

**Whether** can usually be followed immediately by **or not**. Compare:

- ☐ I didn't know **if** Tom was coming **or not**. (*not ...if or not Tom was coming.*) **and**
- ☐ I didn't know **whether or not** Tom was coming. (*or ...whether Tom was coming or not...*)

**D** We use **whether** rather than **if** –

- ☆ after a **preposition** (although **if** is sometimes used informally) and before a **to-infinitive**:

- ☐ We argued **about whether** butter or margarine was better for you. (*informally ...if...*)
- ☐ I couldn't decide **whether to buy** apples or bananas.

- ☆ in the pattern **noun/adjective + as to whether** to mean 'about' or 'concerning':

- ☐ There was some *disagreement* **as to whether** he was eligible to play for France.

Other nouns and adjectives used in this pattern include **conflict, confusion, debate, discussion, doubt, question, speculation, uncertainty; concerned, indifferent, uncertain, undecided, unsure.**

and we prefer **whether** rather than **if** –

- ☆ after the verbs **advise, choose, consider, depend on, discuss, talk about, and think about**:

- ☐ You should **consider whether** the car you are interested in is good value.

- ☆ in a clause acting as a subject or complement:

- ☐ **Whether the minister will quit over the issue** remains to be seen.
- ☐ The first issue is **whether he knew he was committing a crime.**

86.1 Match the sentence halves and write a new sentence with the same meaning, beginning each one with *Unless...* (A)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 We'll never get to the meeting...                    | a ...or the farmers will lose their crops.                      |
| 2 Alternative sources of funding must be found...      | b <del>...if the train doesn't leave within five minutes.</del> |
| 3 If the roads haven't changed in that part of town... | c ...I'm sure I'll be able to find my way there.                |
| 4 The weather must start improving soon...             | d ...or the research will not be able to continue.              |
| 5 If it isn't ridiculously expensive...                | e ...I think I'll buy that painting.                            |
| 6 You are only entitled to state benefit...            | f ...if you have been unemployed for six months.                |
- 1 + b Unless the train leaves within five minutes, we'll never get to the meeting.

86.2 Underline the correct phrase. If either is possible, underline them both. (B)

- Unless the infection is treated/ If the infection isn't treated urgently, there is a real danger that she will die.
- Unless she had gone/ If she hadn't gone to university, she would have gone into the army.
- Unless he was/ If he wasn't so clumsy, he'd be the best person to do the work.
- The man can't be prosecuted unless the police can prove/ if the police can't prove he intended to steal the jewels.
- Unless they were/ If they weren't the tastiest strawberries I've ever eaten, they were definitely the biggest.
- It'll be surprising unless Rachel passes/ if Rachel doesn't pass her piano exam.
- John was expecting us, but I've knocked and rung on the bell and there's no answer – unless he's gone/ if he hasn't gone next door to see the neighbours.
- Unless you get/ If you don't get a loan from the bank, how will you pay for the house?
- They'll go on strike unless they get/ if they don't get a pay rise.
- Where will you stay unless Louise is at home/ if Louise isn't at home?
- I can borrow my brother's tent unless he's using it/ if he's not using it, in which case I'll have to buy one.

86.3 Write *whether* or *if/whether* (if both are possible) in these sentences. (C & D)

- I was wondering \_\_\_\_\_ you'd had your exam results yet.
- She was undecided as to \_\_\_\_\_ to fly or go by train.
- Police have refused to confirm \_\_\_\_\_ or not they have arrested anyone following the robbery.
- It is unclear \_\_\_\_\_ the new regulations will affect all buildings or just new ones.
- 'How much will the computer cost?' 'That depends on \_\_\_\_\_ I get one with a 15 or 17-inch screen.'
- Harry said that he was leaving home, but I didn't know \_\_\_\_\_ to believe him.
- Have you any idea \_\_\_\_\_ Ken will be at the meeting?
- Can you remember \_\_\_\_\_ the door was open or closed when you got to the house?
- There was considerable debate as to \_\_\_\_\_ chess was a game or a sport.
- I don't know \_\_\_\_\_ Clare's going to wait for us or not.
- The government is considering \_\_\_\_\_ to hold an enquiry into the accident.
- Everyone in the village was very friendly. It didn't matter \_\_\_\_\_ you'd lived there for a short or a long time.
- Do you have any view on \_\_\_\_\_ young children should be given homework from school?

Connecting ideas in a sentence and  
between sentences

**A** Some words and phrases (*sentence connectors*) are used to connect one sentence with a previous sentence or sentences. Often (but not always) these go at the beginning of the sentence:

- There was no heating in the building. **As a result**, the workers had to be sent home. (or The workers had to be sent home **as a result**.)

Other words and phrases (*conjunctions*) are used to connect clauses *within* a single sentence:

- **While** I was waiting, I read a magazine.
- I'll be wearing a red jumper **so that** you can see me easily.

We can't use a comma to connect ideas joined by a sentence connector. However, these words and phrases can be used to connect two clauses in one sentence if the clauses are joined with **and**, **but**, **or**, **so**, or a **semi-colon (;)**, **colon (:)**, or **dash (-)**:

- The building was extremely well constructed **and**, **as a result**, difficult to demolish.
- You could fly via Singapore; **however**, this isn't the only way.

<i>type of connection</i>	<i>example sentence connectors</i>	<i>example conjunctions</i>
comparing, contrasting, and indicating that a situation (in the main clause) is unexpected	after all, all the same, alternatively, anyway, by contrast, even so, however ( <i>but see C</i> ), in any case, in contrast, instead, nevertheless, on the contrary, on the other hand	although, even though, though, whereas, while, yet
reasons and results	as a consequence, as a result, consequently, for one thing, so; hence, in consequence, therefore, thus ( <i>the last four are rather formal</i> )	as, because, for, in that, since, insofar as, so, so that
adding information	above all, after all, also, besides, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly, what's more; as well, too ( <i>the last two are not used at the beginning of a sentence</i> )	
condition	if not, if so, otherwise	as long as, assuming (that), if, on condition that, provided (that), so long as, supposing (that), unless
time: one event at the same time as another	at that time, at the same time, meanwhile	as, when, whenever, while
time: one event before or after another	after, after that, afterwards, before, before that, earlier, later, previously, soon, subsequently, then	after, as soon as, before, since, until

Note that **after**, **before** and **so** can be both connectors and conjunctions.

**B** **Even though** is a conjunction used to say that a fact doesn't make the rest of the sentence untrue (see also Unit 82B). It connects ideas *within* a sentence:

- **Even though** it was midday, I put on the light.

**Even so** is a sentence connector used to introduce a fact that is surprising in the context of what was just said. It connects ideas *between* sentences:

- It was midday. **Even so**, I put on the light.

**C** **However** is often used as a sentence connector, but it can also be used –

☆ as an adverb when it is followed by an adjective, adverb, or **much/many**:

- We just don't have the money to do the work, **however necessary** you think it is.

☆ as a conjunction when it means 'in whatever way':

- **However** she held the mirror, she couldn't see the back of her neck.

87.1 Choose items from (i) and from (ii) to complete these sentences in an appropriate way. Note the punctuation at the ends of the sentences and phrases already given. (A & B)

(i)		(ii)	
alternatively	as long as	<del>everybody had their fair share</del>	you could poison them
for one thing	meanwhile	his face seemed familiar	it's too expensive
otherwise	<del>so that</del>	the rent was paid on time	the street was deserted
while	yet	the volcano continues to erupt	we were on holiday

- 1 Martha cut the cake carefully into slices so that everybody had their fair share.
- 2 A small boy was kicking a ball against a wall; \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 I couldn't remember meeting him before, \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 A mass evacuation of islanders is taking place. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 A: Why don't you like that new French restaurant? B: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Karen came down with flu \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 My landlady didn't mind me having parties in my room \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 One way of getting rid of weeds is to dig them out. \_\_\_\_\_

87.2 Underline the correct alternative. (A, B & C)

- 1 Your essay is badly organised and full of spelling mistakes. *Though/ Nevertheless*, it contains some very interesting ideas.
- 2 To the east the trees were left standing, *while/ in contrast* to the west they were cut down.
- 3 I felt guilty about leaving the company *even so/ even though* I knew I had made the right decision.
- 4 The course taught me a lot about jewellery design. *Even though/ Even so*, there is still a lot I need to learn.
- 5 I had expected my mother to be happy with the news. *Instead/ Although* tears came to her eyes and she started to cry.
- 6 Herbs are usually grown in temperate climates, *whereas/ on the other hand* spices are mainly from tropical areas.
- 7 We were very short of money *so/ as a consequence* we had to spend the night on a park bench.
- 8 I turned the ignition, but the car refused to start. *As/ Meanwhile* the lions were getting ever closer.
- 9 She wrote the questions on the blackboard *while/ at the same time* the students copied them into their books.
- 10 *Previously/ Before* I went to Australia, I'd never seen a koala.
- 11 Modern farming methods have destroyed the habitat of many birds. *As a result/ So that* their numbers are in decline.
- 12 I'll have to buy some ladders *unless/ if not* I can borrow a pair from Ray.
- 13 I first met Kevin in the 1970s. *At that time/ When* he had long hair and a beard.

87.3 Use your own ideas to complete the sentences. Begin however + adjective/adverb/many/much. (C)

- 1 She is determined to be a successful artist, however difficult it might be to achieve.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_, it is difficult to lose weight without cutting down on the amount you eat.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_, it is important to spend some time apart.
- 4 Professor Malcolm is always happy to spend time with his students, \_\_\_\_\_

## Prepositions of position and movement

## A Across, over

We can use **across** or **over** to talk about a *position* on the other side of, or *moving* to the other side of a road, bridge, border, river, etc.:

- ☐ Mike lives in the house **across/over** the road from ours.
- ☐ The truck came towards them **across/over** the bridge.
- ☐ Once she was **across/over** the border, she knew she would be safe.

We use **over** rather than **across** when we talk about reaching the other side of something that is high, or higher than it is wide. Compare:

- ☐ He jumped **over** the fence into the garden. *and* ☐ He jumped **across** the stream.

When we are talking about something we think of as a flat surface, or an area such as a country or sea, we prefer **across** rather than **over**:

- ☐ He suddenly saw Sue **across** the room. ☐ The figures moved rapidly **across** the screen.
- ☐ The programme was broadcast **across** Australia.

We prefer **all over** rather than **all across** to mean 'to or in many different parts of an area'.

However, we commonly use **across**, or **right across** for emphasis:

- ☐ The disease has now spread **all over** the world. (*or ... (right) across* the world.)

## B Along, through

When we talk about following a line of some kind (a road, a river, etc.), we use **along**:

- ☐ They walked **along** the footpath until they came to a small bridge.

We use **through** to emphasise that we are talking about movement in a three dimensional space, with things all around, rather than a two dimensional space, a flat surface or area:

- ☐ He pushed his way **through** the crowd of people to get to her.

**Through** often suggests movement from one side or end of the space to the other. Compare:

- ☐ She walked **through** the forest to get to her grandmother's house. *and*
- ☐ She spent a lot of her free time walking **in** the forest.

## C Above, over; below, under; beneath, underneath; throughout

We can use either **above** or **over** when we say that one thing is at a higher level than another:

- ☐ **Above/Over** the door was a sign saying, 'Mind your head'.

However, we prefer **above**, when one thing is not directly over the other. Compare:

- ☐ They lived in a village in the mountains **above** the lake. (*not directly over*) *and*
- ☐ The bird hovered just a few metres **above/over** the lake. (*directly over*)

We use **over**, not **above**, when something covers something else and touches it:

- ☐ She put a quilt **over** the bed.

and usually when we are talking about horizontal movement at a higher level than something:

- ☐ I saw the helicopter fly out **over** the water, near the fishing boat.

**Below** is the opposite of **above**; **under** is the opposite of **over**. The differences in the uses of **below** and **under** are similar to those between **above** and **over** (see above):

- ☐ It's hard to believe that there is a railway line **below/under** the building. (*at a lower level*)
- ☐ Her head was **below** the level of the table so nobody noticed her. (*not directly under*)
- ☐ She hid the presents **under** a blanket. (*the blanket covers and touches the presents*)
- ☐ Esther ran **under** the bridge. (*horizontal movement at a lower level*)

We can use **underneath** as an alternative to **under** as a preposition of place. **Beneath** is sometimes used as a more formal alternative to **under** or **below**.

We can use **throughout** to emphasise that something is in every part of a place (see also Unit 90A):

- ☐ The flower is found **throughout** the island. ☐ The same laws apply **throughout** Europe.



88.1 Complete the sentences with *across* or *over*, whichever is correct or more likely. If both are possible, write *across/over*. (A)

- 1 After I'd finished work I walked \_\_\_\_\_ the car park to where Ruth was waiting.
- 2 They own a house \_\_\_\_\_ the river in Richmond.
- 3 The gate was locked so we had to climb \_\_\_\_\_ the wall.
- 4 You're not allowed to go \_\_\_\_\_ the railway line. You have to use the bridge.
- 5 She was the first woman to row alone \_\_\_\_\_ the Atlantic.
- 6 Nuclear waste continues to be transported \_\_\_\_\_ the country, despite objections from campaigners.
- 7 The traffic was busy on the main road so we walked \_\_\_\_\_ the pedestrian crossing.
- 8 She leaned out \_\_\_\_\_ the balcony rail and looked for Philip in the square below.

88.2 Underline the correct or most appropriate word(s) in each sentence. (A & B)

- 1 It took several minutes to walk *across/ over/ along/ through* the corridor to the exit.
- 2 *Across/ Over/ Along/ Through* the table I could see Oliver looking at his watch.
- 3 He fell *across/ over/ along/ through* the floor into the cellar below.
- 4 I could see Bob *across/ over/ along/ through* the other side of the river.
- 5 He cycles thousands of miles each year all *across/ over/ along/ through* the country.
- 6 Hotels have been built *across/ over/ along/ through* the beach for about 25 kilometres north of the town.

88.3 Correct the prepositions (*above*, *over*, *below*, *under*) if necessary, or write ✓. (C)

- 1 He slept with his wallet below his pillow.
- 2 He broke his leg just below his knee.
- 3 The town stood at the top the hill, and stretching into the distance under it were huge areas of green fields.
- 4 She threw a coat above her shoulders and stepped out into the cold.
- 5 The autumn and spring equinoxes are when the sun is directly above the equator.
- 6 He lived in a first-floor flat above a greengrocer's in Leyton.
- 7 When the police got to the car they found the driver slumped above the steering wheel.
- 8 He always wore a vest below his shirt, even in summer.
- 9 I could hear the plane flying high over the clouds.
- 10 The palace is situated on a wooded hillside 3 kilometres over the city.

88.4 A number of common idioms include the prepositions in this unit. Match the idioms in *italics* and their meanings below.

- 1 'What's wrong?' 'I'm just feeling rather *below par*.'
- 2 'Her clothes look rather old-fashioned. In fact, she's never been particularly concerned about her appearance.' 'That's a bit *below the belt*, isn't it?'
- 3 She already has 18 books on gardening *under her belt* and she is now working on number 19.
- 4 He had never played well for the club and left *under a cloud*.
- 5 She lost her temper and went completely *over the top*, accusing him of cheating.
- 6 They received a bonus in December *over and above* their monthly salary.
- 7 We have a lot more students at college this year. They haven't just come to particular departments, the increase is right *across the board*.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a in addition to _____                            | b successfully completed _____         |
| c slightly unwell _____                           | d applies equally to all areas _____   |
| e cruel or unfair _____                           | f with some people's disapproval _____ |
| g extreme behaviour; indicating disapproval _____ |  |

## Between and among

**A** As prepositions of *place* we use **between** with two or more people or things that we see as individual or separate, and we use **among** when we see the people or things as part of a group or mass. **Among** is only used with three or more people or things:

- ☐ She held the diamond **between** her thumb and forefinger.
- ☐ Zimbabwe is situated **between** Zambia to the north, Mozambique to the east, Botswana to the west, and South Africa to the south.
- ☐ He stood **among** all his friends in the room and felt very happy.
- ☐ She eventually found her passport **among** the clothes in the drawer.

Note that **amongst** is sometimes used instead of **among**, but in more literary contexts.

**B** **Between** and **among** are not only used as prepositions of place. For example, we can use either to talk about something divided or shared between people:

- ☐ The money is to be divided **between/among** the towns in the area.
- ☐ The prize will be shared **between/among** the first six finishers in the race.

We also use **between** –

☆ to talk about comparisons and relationships (e.g. with the words *association, balance, comparison, connection, contrast, correlation, difference, distinction, link, relationship*):

- ☐ There should be a better *balance* on the committee **between** the various ethnic groups.
- ☐ They are wrong to claim that there is a *link* **between** unemployment and crime.

☆ to talk about choices:

- ☐ I have to choose **between** the universities of Leeds, York and Manchester.
- ☐ He felt torn **between** his family and his friends.

☆ to talk about discussions or the results of discussions when we specify the two or more people or groups involved:

- ☐ There was a disagreement **between** Neil, John and Margaret.
- ☐ The treaty was signed **between** Great Britain and France.

☆ to say that people or things share an amount of something:

- ☐ **Between** them, Ray and Ingrid must earn about £100,000 a year.
- ☐ Last year the three companies built 30,000 houses **between** them.

We also use **among** –

☆ when we mean 'existing or happening in a particular group':

- ☐ The disease has now broken out **among** the hill tribes.
- ☐ Their music is still very popular **among** young teenagers.

☆ when we mean 'included in a particular group':

- ☐ They are **among** the best hockey players in the world.
- ☐ **Among** the capital cities of South America, Quito is the second highest.

**C** There are a number of common expressions using **between** and **among**, including **among others** (= what is said applies to other people or things, too), **among other things** (= including other things), **between ourselves** (= this should be kept secret), and **between you and me** (= this should be kept secret):

- ☐ The concert features, **among others**, Karl Frisk and the Johnsons. (= other singers/groups are featured, too)
- ☐ I later found out that he had been a carpenter and a dustman, **among other things**. (= he had had other jobs, too)
- ☐ **Between ourselves** (= keep this a secret), I don't think Tom is as honest as he should be.
- ☐ I've got a maths exam next week, but **between you and me** (= but keep this a secret) I haven't done any revision yet.

## 89.1 Underline the correct answer. (A)

- 1 For a couple of days I've had a pain *between/ among* my shoulder blades.
- 2 He couldn't find a microphone *between/ among* all the recording equipment he had with him.
- 3 It would be easier to read if you put a line space *between/ among* the paragraphs.
- 4 In the photograph Val is standing *between/ among* her parents.
- 5 The lost manuscript was discovered *between/ among* the thousands of books in the cellar.
- 6 The buffet is towards the middle of the train *between/ among* first and second class seating.
- 7 She carried trays of drinks and food *between/ among* the crowd of guests in the room.
- 8 I couldn't see Robbie *between/ among* the audience, although he said he would be there.
- 9 Rebecca commutes *between/ among* her flat in London and her sister's home in Halifax.

89.2 Complete the sentences with *between* or *among* and the most likely words or phrases from those below. If you can use either *between* or *among*, write *between/among*. (B)

amateur	its clients	my closest friends	cooking
intake of refined sugar	the pupils	his remaining relatives	the striking dockers
teenagers	us		

- 1 I wasn't feeling very hungry, so Jo and I shared a bowl of noodles between us.
- 2 I bought four bars of chocolate and divided them \_\_\_\_\_ in the class.
- 3 The distinction \_\_\_\_\_ and professional athletes is becoming less clear.
- 4 It has become fashionable \_\_\_\_\_ to dye their hair in various colours.
- 5 When Jack died, his daughter inherited the house and the rest of his money was split \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 The advertising company is very successful, numbering most of the big banks \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Researchers have found a striking correlation \_\_\_\_\_ and arthritis.
- 8 Given a choice \_\_\_\_\_ and washing up, I know which I'd prefer to do.
- 9 Neil and Ashley are \_\_\_\_\_, so I'll invite them to the wedding, of course.
- 10 Late last night the talks \_\_\_\_\_ and their employers broke down.

89.3 Kathy and her friend Jo recently travelled around Europe. Here is what Kathy wrote in a letter home from Rome. Fill in the gaps with *between* or *among*. (A & B)

Hello Mum and Dad!

Rome must be (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the most fascinating cities in the world. Yesterday we visited, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ other places, the Foro Romano - the centre of ancient Rome - and the Vatican. There is such an incredible contrast (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the old parts of the city built up to 2000 years ago and the more recent parts. In the Vatican we climbed the long stairs to the top of St Peter's church. The view from the top must be (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the most incredible over any city in the world. But (5) \_\_\_\_\_ you and me, I'm a bit scared of heights and was glad to get back to ground level. Later we went to the Pantheon, an ancient Roman temple, which is (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the Vatican and the Foro Romano. The Italian king Umberto I and the artist Raphael are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the people buried there. In the evening we had a bit of an argument (8) \_\_\_\_\_ us over where we should eat - Jo wanted pizza, but I wanted to try some of the special local food. Eventually we found a place that did excellent pasta, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ other things. The only problem then was choosing (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the many different types!

Kathy



## Prepositions of time

## During, in, over, throughout

**A** We use **during** or **in** to talk about a period of time within which an event or activity occurs. The activity may continue for the whole of the period of time:

- ☐ I stayed at home **during** the summer. (or ...**in** the summer.)
- ☐ The population of the city has actually fallen **during** the last decade. (or ...**in** the last...)

or the event may happen at some time, or be repeated a number of times, in the period of time:

- ☐ We went to France **during** the summer. (or ...**in** the summer.)
- ☐ He suffered a number of injuries **during** his career as a footballer. (or ...**in** his career...)

We use **during**, rather than **in**, to mean 'at some time in the period of' before nouns such as **illness, holiday, meal, stay, treatment, and visit**, when we refer to an event which lasts some time:

- ☐ The President made the speech **during** a *visit* to Madrid.

and also with the phrase **the whole (of)**, emphasising duration of an entire period:

- ☐ No-one was allowed to leave the ship **during** *the whole of* its time in port.

We can use **throughout** to emphasise that something happens over the whole of a period of time:

- ☐ We had enough firewood to keep us warm **throughout** the winter. (or ...warm **during/through** the winter.)

**B** We can use **over** or **during** when we talk about something that goes on for a length of time within a *period of time*, either for some of that period or for the whole of it:

- ☐ Weather conditions have been improving **over/ during** *the past few days*.
- ☐ I fell, banged my head, and can't remember anything about what happened **over/ during** *the next hour or so*.

However, if we talk about a short event that happens within a period of time, we prefer **during**:

- ☐ *She sneezed* **during** the performance. (= on one or a few occasions; *not* ...over the performance.)
- ☐ **During** a pause in the conversation, *she left the room*. (*not* Over a pause...)

Note that we can use **throughout** to mean that short events happen continuously within a period of time:

- ☐ *She sneezed* **throughout** the performance.

**C** Until, by, up to

There are a number of ways of saying when something that has continued for some time stops –

- ☆ We use **until** to say that something continued or will continue to a particular time, and **by** to say that something happened or will happen either before a particular time or at that time at the latest. Compare:

- ☐ We have to be at home **until** 2.30. (We must not leave home before 2.30) *and*
- ☐ We have to be at home **by** 2.30. (We must arrive home either before or at 2.30)

Note that **till** can be used instead of **until**. It is particularly common in conversation, but rarely found in formal writing.

- ☆ In informal contexts we can use **up to** or **up till** instead of **until**. We commonly use **up to/till** with **now** and with **then**:

- ☐ I've just bought a computer. I've always used a typewriter **up to now**. (or ...**up till** now...)
- ☐ The roadworks are likely to go on **up to** the end of May. (or ...**up till** the end...)

- ☆ We can use **until now** to talk about a situation that will not continue beyond now:

- ☐ Supermarkets say that **until now** there has been little consumer interest in buying organic produce. (The situation has changed or is going to change)

Notice, however, that we don't use **until now** for a situation that will or may continue into the future. Instead we can use **so far** or, in formal contexts, **to date**:

- ☐ It was certainly the best match of the football season **so far**.
- ☐ When the contract is signed it will be the building company's biggest order **to date**.

90.1 In which of the sentences can the word in brackets replace *during*? Write ✓ if it can replace it and X if it can't. (A & B)

- 1 I'm going to get a cup of coffee *during* the break. (*in*)
- 2 She lost more than 15 kilos *during* her illness and she was off work for two months. (*in*)
- 3 He twisted his ankle *during* the match and had to retire injured. (*over*)
- 4 The weather was terrible here *during* December. (*in*)
- 5 The meeting will be some time *during* January. (*over*)
- 6 She sang in a choir *during* her childhood. (*throughout*)
- 7 People no longer expect to be employed in the same place *during* the whole of their working lives. (*in*)
- 8 Do you think standards of numeracy have fallen *during* the last twenty years? (*over*)
- 9 This is one of the pieces we heard *during* the concert last night. (*in*)
- 10 Jean will have to sleep in the spare room *during* her stay with us. (*in*)
- 11 The town was rebuilt *during* the early 16th century. (*over*)
- 12 It was impossible to buy bananas *during* the war. (*in*)
- 13 Harry had a phone call *during* the meal and had to leave early. (*in*)
- 14 He had to put up with great pain *during* his treatment for a heart condition. (*in*)
- 15 My stomach ache got steadily worse *during* the evening. (*over*)

90.2 Complete the sentences with *by* and *until*. Use *by* in one of the pair and *until* in the other. (C)

- 1 a I was feeling really hungry ..... the time dinner was served.  
b We sat around the fire talking ..... the time dinner was served.
- 2 a Sorry I'm late. I've been in a meeting ..... now.  
b I thought Jack would have been here ..... now.
- 3 a I've got to pay the money back ..... the end of the month.  
b I've got ..... the end of the month to pay the money back.
- 4 a I put on an extra pair of socks. .... then my feet were freezing cold.  
b I stood outside the cinema for an hour. .... then my feet were freezing cold.
- 5 a She was already a leading economist ..... her early twenties.  
b She studied economics ..... her early twenties and then moved into law.
- 6 a I hope to finish the decorating ..... the weekend.  
b It will take me ..... the weekend to finish the decorating.

90.3 Here is another of Kathy's letters (see Unit 89.3). Choose the correct or more likely word or phrase. In some cases, both are possible. (A–C)

Hi Peter

(1) Over / During the last three weeks we've covered thousands of kilometres by train.  
 (2) So far / Until now we've been to Stockholm, Berlin and Rome, and now we're in Amsterdam.  
 (3) So far / Until now I thought Rome was the best city we'd been to, but I think I love Amsterdam even more. We've been here for three days, and have been very impressed with what we've seen.  
 (4) so far / until now. We spent the first two days in galleries, looking particularly at van Gogh's paintings. I didn't know much about his work.  
 (5) so far / until now. Incidentally, we bumped into your friend Ken.  
 (6) in / during our visit to the van Gogh museum. We're staying here.  
 (7) until / by Saturday and then we're going to Paris. Must go now. We're off to The Hague for the day and have to be at the station.  
 (8) until / by 9.30.

Kathy