

# During, for, in, over, and throughout; by and until

## A

### During, for, in, over, throughout

We use **during** or **in** to talk about something that happens within a particular period of time:

- The population of the city has actually fallen **during** the last decade. (*or ...in the last...*)
- She didn't take a holiday **during** her four years as head of the company. (*or ...in her four years...*)
- **During** the time that I was in Paris, I only once saw the River Seine. (*or In the time...*)

We use **during** rather than **in** when we talk about something that happens within the same time as another event or activity rather than over a particular period of time:

- Mrs Newton came into our classroom **during** a maths test.
- The President made the speech **during** a visit to Madrid.

We also prefer **during** when we emphasise that something continues for *the whole* of a particular period of time:

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

We can also use **throughout** to express a similar meaning:

- We had enough firewood to keep us warm **during** (the whole of) the winter. (*or...warm throughout the winter.*)

## B

We can use **over** or **during** when we talk about an event or activity 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 an event or activity having little duration that happens within a period of time, we prefer **during**:

- She sneezed **during** the performance. (*not ...over the performance.*)
- **During** a pause in the conversation, she left the room. (*not Over a pause...*)

## C

We use **for** to say *how long* something continues, and **during** to say *when* something takes place:

- You can only come in **for** a few minutes. (*not ...during...*)
- I felt ill **for** a couple of days, but was fine after that. (*not ...during...*)
- About ten of us were taken ill **during** a party we were at in York. (*not ...for a party...*)
- You will get plenty of practical experience **during** the training period. (*not ...for the training period...*)

## D

### By, until

We use **by** when we say that something will happen or be achieved either before a particular time or at that time at the latest.

- We have to be at the stadium **by** 2.30. (That's when the competition starts.)
- She learned German **by** the age of 16. (She could speak it fluently when she reached that age.)

We use **until** when we say that something will continue up to a particular time.

- We have to be at the stadium **until** 2.30. (We can't leave before that time.)
- She learned German **until** the age of 16. (Then she stopped learning it.)

In negative sentences, **until** means 'not before':

- You mustn't open your presents **until** your birthday.

In informal English we can use **till** instead of **until**.

## EXERCISES

### 18.1 Underline the correct word(s). In some sentences, both words are possible. (A, B & C)

- 1 I wasn't late once *during/in* my first year at school.
- 2 She got very badly sunburnt *during/over* her holiday in Spain.
- 3 You mustn't look directly at the sun *during/in* the eclipse.
- 4 *During/Over* the next two days I made several trips to the library.
- 5 The castle was built *during/over* the fourteenth century.
- 6 Mrs Peterson made a number of major changes *during/in* her time as principal of the school.
- 7 They sat and rested *during/for* a while and then continued on their way.
- 8 Dr Brown won't be available *during/over* the coming months.
- 9 Because she had to go back to work, she could only stay *during/for* two weeks.
- 10 She is going to need a lot of support *during/over* the next few months.
- 11 He slept *during/in* the whole of the second half of the performance.
- 12 *During/For* a moment I didn't know whether he was being serious.
- 13 I visited most of the main museums and art galleries *during/for* my stay in Italy.
- 14 She suffered a number of serious injuries *during/in* her career as a professional tennis player.
- 15 He listened to the lecture *during/for* a few minutes more and then left the room quietly.
- 16 I seem to get lots of colds, particularly *during/for* the winter.
- 17 We should be at home *during/over* the weekend. Come and see us.

### 18.2 Choose by or until to complete these sentences. (D)

- 1 a I've given myself ..... the end of September to finish the book.  
b The publishers have told me I have to finish the book ..... the end of September.
- 2 a ..... three o'clock I was exhausted, but the party was still going on.  
b The party went on ..... after three o'clock.
- 3 a You have to hand in your projects ..... October.  
b Students have ..... October to hand in their projects.
- 4 a The exhibition is open ..... June 6th, when it moves on to New York.  
b ..... June 6th, when the exhibition moves on to New York, some half a million people will have visited it.
- 5 a You have to bring my car back ..... the end of the month.  
b You can borrow my car ..... the end of the month.
- 6 a I waited ..... 9 o'clock, and then I went home.  
b ..... 9 o'clock everybody had gone home.

### 18.3 At the beginning of each year some people make New Year resolutions – we make a promise to ourselves that we will or won't do something. Complete these sentences to make resolutions for yourself for next year. (D)

I'll go on a diet until the end of the year.

- 1 ..... by the end of the year.
- 2 ..... until the end of January.
- 3 ..... by the end of January.

## UNIT 108

### 108.1

- 1 during/in
- 2 during
- 3 during
- 4 During/Over
- 5 during (Here 'over' would mean that the building started on 1st January 1300 and finished on 31st December 1399, which seems unlikely)
- 6 during/in
- 7 for
- 8 during/over
- 9 for
- 10 during/over
- 11 during
- 12 For
- 13 during
- 14 during/in
- 15 for
- 16 during
- 17 during/over

### 108.2

- 1 a until; b by
- 2 a By; b until
- 3 a by; b until
- 4 a until; b By
- 5 a by; b until
- 6 a until; b By