

## 1 You use *during* (or *in*):

a to say something happened in a certain period of time:

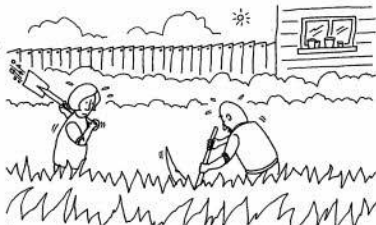
The phone rang *during* the interview.

I went out once *during* the morning.

b often to say something happened from the beginning to the end of a period, or for a certain time in that period:

We put the radiators on *during* the winter.

We were very busy *during* the holidays.



We were very busy *during* the holidays.

**WARNING:** You do not use *during* to say how long something lasts. It tells you when something happened, not the duration of something:

My parents were in Dublin ~~during~~ for two weeks.

**NOTE:** *During* is followed by a noun, not a number or a preposition.

## 2 You use *before* to say that something happens earlier than a certain time or event, and *after* to say it happens later:

We will finish *before* six o'clock.

Turn the light off *before* you leave.

**Note:** You can use *before/after* with a noun or a phrase.



## 3 You use *from ... until* or *from ... till* or *from ... to* to say that something began at one time and finished at a certain time:

I waited for you *from* 4 to 6 o'clock! The shops are open *from* 9 *until* 5.

## 4 You use *by* to say that something will happen at or before a certain time:

I must be home *by* seven tonight. (= not later than 7)

Give me your work *by* Friday lunch-time. (=Wednesday or Thursday would be better, but Friday morning is possible)

## 5 You use *about* or *around* to give a general or approximate time:



**A Complete the sentences using the following:**

by six during the holidays by now during the storm by 2020 during the morning  
by the end of the week during the demonstration by bed-time during the lesson

- All the lights went out \_\_\_\_\_.
- Give him a ring. He should be home \_\_\_\_\_.
- I had a lazy time. I didn't do much \_\_\_\_\_.
- The forecast said that the weather will get better \_\_\_\_\_.
- If we catch the next train we can be in Cardiff \_\_\_\_\_.
- Colin fell asleep \_\_\_\_\_.
- The population of England will probably reach 65 million \_\_\_\_\_.
- The police said that no-one was arrested \_\_\_\_\_.
- Please call after 12.30, because we are always busy \_\_\_\_\_.
- I'm staying in a Youth Hostel and I have to be in \_\_\_\_\_.

**B Complete the sentences:**

- The postman comes *at around/from* eight in the morning.
- It rained *after/during* the night.
- Before/By* the end of the week the group had visited all the most important sights of the capital.
- I think the film starts *at about/from* 6.45 tonight.
- Eva could speak quite well *during/after* two weeks in the country.
- Put your boots on *before/after* you go out!

**C Complete the sentences using from, before, after, until:**

- What are you going to do \_\_\_\_\_ school today?
- The skiing season is \_\_\_\_\_ October \_\_\_\_\_ April.
- Have I got time for a bath \_\_\_\_\_ we go out?
- The coach leaves at 5.20, so get to the station \_\_\_\_\_ that.
- The banks are only open \_\_\_\_\_ Monday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday.
- You should always wash your hands \_\_\_\_\_ you eat.
- My grandparents often have a short sleep \_\_\_\_\_ lunch.
- Most people feel a little nervous \_\_\_\_\_ an examination.

**D Write sentences saying which of these activities you normally do a) before breakfast b) after breakfast c) during the evening:**

read a paper have a shower get dressed watch tv go out with friends  
go to work/school write letters brush your teeth polish your shoes relax