

FOR DURING AND WHILE

FOR and DURING

- **for**+ a period of time = to say how long something goes on: for **two hours** for a week for ages
*We watched TV **for two hours** last night.* *Jess is going away **for a week** in September.*
*Where have you been? I've been waiting **for ages**.* *Are you going away **for the weekend**?*
- **during**+ noun = to say when something happens (**not**: how long): during **the movie** during **our holiday**
 during **the night**
*I fell asleep **during the movie**.* *We met some really nice people **during our holiday**.*
*The ground is wet. It must have rained **during the night**.* *I fell asleep **during the movie**.*

With 'time words' (the morning / the afternoon / the summer, etc.), you can usually say **in** or **during**:

*It must have rained **in the night**.* OR: ... **during the night**.

*I'll phone you sometime **during the afternoon**.* OR: ... **in the afternoon**.

You cannot use **during** to say how long something goes on:

*It rained **for three days** without stopping. (**not**: during three days)*

- Compare **during** and **for**: I fell asleep **during the movie**. I was asleep **for half an hour**.

DURING and WHILE

Compare:

We use during + noun:	We use while + subject+ verb:
I fell asleep during the movie .	I fell asleep while I was watching TV .
We met a lot of interesting people during our holiday .	We met a lot of interesting people while we were on holiday .
Bob suddenly began to feel ill during the exam .	Bob suddenly began to feel ill while he was doing the exam .

Some more examples of **while**:

We saw Clare **while we were waiting** for the bus.

While you were out, there was a phone call for you.

Alex read a book **while I watched** TV.

When you are talking about the future, use the *present* (**not**: will) after **while**:

I'm going to Rome next week. I hope to see some friends **while I'm** there. (**not**: while I will be there)

What are you going to do **while you're waiting**? (**not**: while you, ll be waiting)

BY – UNTIL – BY THE TIME

- **By** (+ a time) = not later than:
*I sent the letter to them today, so they should receive it **by Monday**.* (=on or before Monday, not later than Monday)
*We'd better hurry. We have to be home **by 5 o' dock**.* (= at or before 5 o'clock, not later than 5 o'clock)
*Where's Sarah? She should be here **by now**.* (= now or before now - so she should have already arrived)
*This milk has to be used **by 14 August**.* (the sell-by date is 14th August)
- We use **until** (or till) to say *how Long* a situation continues:
*'Shall we go now?' 'No, let's wait **until** it stops raining.'* OR '... **till** it stops raining.'
*I stayed in bed **until** half past ten.* *I didn't get up **until** half past ten.*

Compare **until** and **by**:

Something <i>continues</i> until a time in the future:	Something <i>happens</i> by a time in the future:
David will be away until Monday. (so he'll be back on Monday) I'll be working until 11.30. (so I'll stop working at 11.30)	David will be back by Monday. (= he'll be back not later than Monday) I'll have finished my work by 11.30. (= I'll finish my work not later than 11.30.)

- **'by the time something happens':**

*It's too late to go to the bank now. **By the time we get there**, it will be closed.*

(= the bank will close **between now and the time we get there**)

*Our holiday ends tomorrow. So **by the time you receive this postcard**, I'll be back home.*

(= I will arrive home **between tomorrow and the time you receive this postcard**)

*Hurry up! **By the time we get to the cinema**, the film will already have started.*

You can say **'by the time something happened'** (for the past):

*Jill's car broke down on the way to the party last night. **By the time she arrived**, most of the guests had left.*

(= it took her a long time to get to the party and most of the guests **left during this time**)

*I had a lot of work to do yesterday evening. I was very tired **by the time I finished**.*

(= it took me a long time to do the work, and I became more and **more tired during this time**)

*We went to the cinema last night. It took us a long time to find somewhere to park the car. **By the time we got to the cinema**, the film had already started.*

- **by then OR by that time** can also be used (same meaning):

*Karen finally got to the party at midnight, but **by then**, most of the other guests had left.*

*or ... but **by that time**, most of the other guests had left.*