

A during

during = at a time between the start and end of something:

- ☐ I fell asleep **during the movie**. (= at a time between the start and end of the movie)
- ☐ We met some really nice people **during our holiday**.
- ☐ The ground is wet. It must have rained **during the night**.

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

- ☐ It rained **in the night**. or ... **during the night**.
- ☐ It's lovely here **during the summer**. or ... **in the summer**.



I fell asleep **during the movie**.

B for and during

We use **for** (+ a period of time) to say how long something goes on:

- ☐ We watched TV **for two hours** last night.
- ☐ Jess is going away **for a week** in September.
- ☐ How are you? I haven't seen you **for ages**.
- ☐ Are you going away **for the weekend**?

We do not use **during** to say *how long* something goes on. We do not say 'during two hours', 'during five years' etc.:

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

We use **during** to say *when* something happens (*not how long*). Compare **during** and **for**:

- ☐ 'When did you fall asleep?' 'During the movie.'
- ☐ 'How long were you asleep?' 'For half an hour.'

C during and while

Compare:

We use **during** + *noun*:

- ☐ I fell asleep **during the movie**.
└─ noun ─┘
- ☐ We met a lot of interesting people **during our holiday**.
- ☐ Robert suddenly began to feel ill **during the exam**.

We use **while** + *subject + verb*:

- ☐ I fell asleep **while I was watching** TV.
└─ subject + verb ─┘
- ☐ We met a lot of interesting people **while we were on holiday**.
- ☐ Robert 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 Amy watched** TV.

When we are talking about the future, we use the *present* after **while**. Do not use 'will' (see Unit 25):

- ☐ I'm going to Moscow next week. I hope the weather will be good **while I'm** there. (*not while I will be*)
- ☐ What are you going to do **while you're** waiting? (*not while you'll be waiting*)



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

Exercises

119.1 Put in **for** or **during**.

- 1 It rained for three days without stopping.
- 2 I fell asleep during the movie.
- 3 I went to the theatre last night. I met Sue the interval.
- 4 I felt really ill last week. I could hardly eat anything three days.
- 5 The traffic was bad. We were stuck in a traffic jam two hours.
- 6 Production at the factory was seriously affected the strike.
- 7 Sarah was very angry with me. She didn't speak to me a week.
- 8 I don't have much free time the week, but I relax at weekends.
- 9 I need a break. I think I'll go away a few days.
- 10 The president gave a short speech. She spoke only ten minutes.
- 11 We were hungry when we arrived. We hadn't eaten anything the journey.
- 12 We were hungry when we arrived. We hadn't eaten anything eight hours.

119.2 Put in **during** or **while**.

- 1 We met a lot of interesting people while we were on holiday.
- 2 We met a lot of interesting people during our holiday.
- 3 I met Mike I was shopping.
- 4 I was on holiday, I didn't use my phone at all.
- 5 I learnt a lot the course. The teachers were very good.
- 6 There was a lot of noise the night. What was it?
- 7 I'd been away for many years. Many things had changed that time.
- 8 What did they say about me I was out of the room?
- 9 When I fly anywhere, I never eat anything the flight.
- 10 Please don't interrupt me I'm speaking.
- 11 the festival, it's almost impossible to find a hotel room here.
- 12 We were hungry when we arrived. We hadn't eaten anything we were travelling.

119.3 Put in **during**, **for** or **while**.

- 1 I used to live in Berlin. I lived there five years.
- 2 One of the runners fell the race but managed to get up and continue.
- 3 Nobody came to see me I was in hospital.
- 4 Try to avoid travelling the busy periods of the day.
- 5 I was very tired. I slept ten hours.
- 6 Can you hold my bag I try on this jacket?
- 7 I'm not sure when we'll arrive, but it will be sometime the afternoon.
- 8 I wasn't well last week. I hardly ate anything three days.
- 9 My phone rang we were having dinner.
- 10 Nobody knows how many people were killed the war.

119.4 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences.

- 1 I fell asleep while I was watching TV.
- 2 I fell asleep during the movie.
- 3 Can you wait for me while
- 4 Most of the students looked bored during
- 5 I was asked a lot of questions during
- 6 Don't open the car door while
- 7 The lights suddenly went out while
- 8 What are you going to do while
- 9 It started to rain during
- 10 It started to rain while