During, while and for

Use while before a clause with its own subject and verb.

Use **while + subject + verb** for an action happening at the same time: while we were waiting.

Worked example

The phone rang **while** I was cooking.

Complete each English sentence with while.

01. Tomé notas mientras la profesora explicaba el tema.
I took notes _____ the teacher was explaining the topic.

02. Tomé notas mientras el ponente presentaba los resultados.
I took notes _____ the speaker was presenting the results.

03. Tomé notas mientras el guía describía la ruta.
I took notes _____ the guide was describing the route.

04. Tomé notas mientras la directora exponía el plan.
I took notes _____ the director was outlining the plan.

05. Se apagaron las luces mientras veíamos una película.
The lights went out _____ we were watching a film.

06. Se apagaron las luces mientras ensayaba la banda.
The lights went out _____ the band was rehearsing.

07. Se apagaron las luces mientras probaban el sistema.
The lights went out _____ they were testing the system.

08. Se apagaron las luces mientras empeoraba la tormenta.
The lights went out _____ the storm was getting worse.

09. Marta me llamó mientras yo volvía a casa.
Marta called me _____ I was travelling home.

10. Marta me llamó mientras esperaba en la estación.
Marta called me _____ she was waiting at the station.

11. Marta me llamó mientras preparaba la cena.
Marta called me _____ I was making dinner.

12. Marta me llamó mientras estaba de viaje.
Marta called me _____ I was away.

13. El perro se quedó dormido mientras los niños leían.
The dog fell asleep _____ the children were reading.

14. El perro se quedó dormido mientras escuchábamos música.
The dog fell asleep _____ we were listening to music.

15. El perro se quedó dormido mientras los invitados conversaban.
The dog fell asleep _____ the guests were chatting.

16. El perro se quedó dormido mientras el tren avanzaba.
The dog fell asleep _____ the train was moving.

17. La conexión a internet se interrumpió mientras subíamos las fotos.
The internet connection dropped _____ we were uploading the photos.

18. La conexión a internet se interrumpió mientras hacían una videollamada.
The internet connection dropped _____ they were having a video call.

19. La conexión a internet se interrumpió mientras veía una clase en línea.
The internet connection dropped _____ I was watching an online lesson.

20. La conexión a internet se interrumpió mientras descargaban el archivo.
The internet connection dropped _____ they were downloading the file.

While + clause

Continue. Complete only the gap in English.

21. La camarera dejó la cuenta en la mesa mientras terminábamos el postre.
The waitress put the bill on the table _____ we were finishing dessert.

22. La camarera dejó la cuenta en la mesa mientras hablábamos del viaje.
The waitress put the bill on the table _____ we were talking about the trip.

23. La camarera dejó la cuenta en la mesa mientras miraba el menú.
The waitress put the bill on the table _____ I was looking at the menu.

24. La camarera dejó la cuenta en la mesa mientras esperábamos el café.
The waitress put the bill on the table _____ we were waiting for coffee.

25. El entrenador dio algunas indicaciones mientras calentábamos.
The coach gave us some instructions _____ we were warming up.

26. El entrenador dio algunas indicaciones mientras practicábamos el saque.
The coach gave us some instructions _____ we were practising our serves.

27. El entrenador dio algunas indicaciones mientras recogíamos el material.
The coach gave us some instructions _____ we were putting the equipment away.

28. El entrenador dio algunas indicaciones mientras descansábamos entre ejercicios.
The coach gave us some instructions _____ we were resting between drills.

29. Encontré un billete en el bolsillo mientras buscaba las llaves.
I found a ticket in my pocket _____ I was looking for my keys.

30. Encontré un billete en el bolsillo mientras guardaba el abrigo.
I found a ticket in my pocket _____ I was putting my coat away.

31. Encontré un billete en el bolsillo mientras hacía la maleta.
I found a ticket in my pocket _____ I was packing my suitcase.

32. Encontré un billete en el bolsillo mientras ordenaba el escritorio.
I found a ticket in my pocket _____ I was tidying my desk.

33. El autobús pasó por delante de la parada mientras consultaba el horario.
The bus went past the stop _____ I was checking the timetable.

34. El autobús pasó por delante de la parada mientras hablaba por teléfono.
The bus went past the stop _____ I was talking on the phone.

35. El autobús pasó por delante de la parada mientras cruzábamos la calle.
The bus went past the stop _____ we were crossing the street.

36. El autobús pasó por delante de la parada mientras compraba un billete.
The bus went past the stop _____ I was buying a ticket.

37. La bebé empezó a llorar mientras su padre preparaba el baño.
The baby started crying _____ her father was running the bath.

38. La bebé empezó a llorar mientras su madre hablaba con la vecina.
The baby started crying _____ her mother was talking to the neighbour.

39. La bebé empezó a llorar mientras todos cenaban.
The baby started crying _____ everyone was having dinner.

40. La bebé empezó a llorar mientras la familia veía la televisión.
The baby started crying _____ the family was watching television.

Answer key

Complete sentences. The word that completes the gap is in bold.

01. I took notes **while** the teacher was explaining the topic.
02. I took notes **while** the speaker was presenting the results.
03. I took notes **while** the guide was describing the route.
04. I took notes **while** the director was outlining the plan.
05. The lights went out **while** we were watching a film.
06. The lights went out **while** the band was rehearsing.
07. The lights went out **while** they were testing the system.
08. The lights went out **while** the storm was getting worse.
09. Marta called me **while** I was travelling home.
10. Marta called me **while** she was waiting at the station.
11. Marta called me **while** I was making dinner.
12. Marta called me **while** I was away.
13. The dog fell asleep **while** the children were reading.
14. The dog fell asleep **while** we were listening to music.
15. The dog fell asleep **while** the guests were chatting.
16. The dog fell asleep **while** the train was moving.
17. The internet connection dropped **while** we were uploading the photos.
18. The internet connection dropped **while** they were having a video call.
19. The internet connection dropped **while** I was watching an online lesson.
20. The internet connection dropped **while** they were downloading the file.
21. The waitress put the bill on the table **while** we were finishing dessert.
22. The waitress put the bill on the table **while** we were talking about the trip.
23. The waitress put the bill on the table **while** I was looking at the menu.
24. The waitress put the bill on the table **while** we were waiting for coffee.
25. The coach gave us some instructions **while** we were warming up.
26. The coach gave us some instructions **while** we were practising our serves.
27. The coach gave us some instructions **while** we were putting the equipment away.
28. The coach gave us some instructions **while** we were resting between drills.
29. I found a ticket in my pocket **while** I was looking for my keys.
30. I found a ticket in my pocket **while** I was putting my coat away.
31. I found a ticket in my pocket **while** I was packing my suitcase.
32. I found a ticket in my pocket **while** I was tidying my desk.
33. The bus went past the stop **while** I was checking the timetable.
34. The bus went past the stop **while** I was talking on the phone.
35. The bus went past the stop **while** we were crossing the street.
36. The bus went past the stop **while** I was buying a ticket.
37. The baby started crying **while** her father was running the bath.
38. The baby started crying **while** her mother was talking to the neighbour.
39. The baby started crying **while** everyone was having dinner.
40. The baby started crying **while** the family was watching television.