During, while and for

Use for to say how long an action or state continues.

Use **for + duration**: for ten minutes, for a week. Use it to answer “How long?”.

Worked example

The journey lasted **for** three hours.

Complete each English sentence with for.

01. Esperamos cinco minutos.
We waited _____ five minutes.

02. Esperamos diez minutos.
We waited _____ ten minutes.

03. Esperamos veinte minutos.
We waited _____ twenty minutes.

04. Esperamos media hora.
We waited _____ half an hour.

05. La reunión duró cuarenta minutos.
The meeting lasted _____ forty minutes.

06. La reunión duró una hora.
The meeting lasted _____ an hour.

07. La reunión duró dos horas.
The meeting lasted _____ two hours.

08. La reunión duró toda la mañana.
The meeting lasted _____ the whole morning.

09. Nos alojamos en el hotel una noche.
We stayed at the hotel _____ one night.

10. Nos alojamos en el hotel tres noches.
We stayed at the hotel _____ three nights.

11. Nos alojamos en el hotel cinco noches.
We stayed at the hotel _____ five nights.

12. Nos alojamos en el hotel una semana.
We stayed at the hotel _____ a week.

13. Julia estudió en la biblioteca una hora.
Julia studied at the library _____ an hour.

14. Julia estudió en la biblioteca dos horas.
Julia studied at the library _____ two hours.

15. Julia estudió en la biblioteca toda la tarde.
Julia studied at the library _____ the whole afternoon.

16. Julia estudió en la biblioteca casi tres horas.
Julia studied at the library _____ nearly three hours.

17. El médico estuvo de guardia seis horas.
The doctor was on call _____ six hours.

18. El médico estuvo de guardia doce horas.
The doctor was on call _____ twelve hours.

19. El médico estuvo de guardia todo el fin de semana.
The doctor was on call _____ the whole weekend.

20. El médico estuvo de guardia toda la noche.
The doctor was on call _____ the whole night.

For + duration

Continue. Complete only the gap in English.

21. Vivieron cerca del mar seis meses.
They lived near the sea _____ six months.

22. Vivieron cerca del mar dos años.
They lived near the sea _____ two years.

23. Vivieron cerca del mar diez años.
They lived near the sea _____ ten years.

24. Vivieron cerca del mar mucho tiempo.
They lived near the sea _____ a long time.

25. El archivo estuvo cerrado al público un día.
The archive was closed to the public _____ one day.

26. El archivo estuvo cerrado al público dos semanas.
The archive was closed to the public _____ two weeks.

27. El archivo estuvo cerrado al público tres meses.
The archive was closed to the public _____ three months.

28. El archivo estuvo cerrado al público parte del invierno.
The archive was closed to the public _____ part of the winter.

29. La llamada se prolongó unos minutos.
The call went on _____ a few minutes.

30. La llamada se prolongó media hora.
The call went on _____ half an hour.

31. La llamada se prolongó casi una hora.
The call went on _____ nearly an hour.

32. La llamada se prolongó más de dos horas.
The call went on _____ more than two hours.

33. El equipo entrenó noventa minutos.
The team trained _____ ninety minutes.

34. El equipo entrenó dos horas.
The team trained _____ two hours.

35. El equipo entrenó toda la mañana.
The team trained _____ the whole morning.

36. El equipo entrenó toda la tarde.
The team trained _____ the whole afternoon.

37. El tren permaneció parado en la estación unos minutos.
The train remained at the station _____ a few minutes.

38. El tren permaneció parado en la estación casi una hora.
The train remained at the station _____ nearly an hour.

39. El tren permaneció parado en la estación dos horas.
The train remained at the station _____ two hours.

40. El tren permaneció parado en la estación toda la noche.
The train remained at the station _____ the whole night.

Answer key

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

01. We waited **for** five minutes.
02. We waited **for** ten minutes.
03. We waited **for** twenty minutes.
04. We waited **for** half an hour.
05. The meeting lasted **for** forty minutes.
06. The meeting lasted **for** an hour.
07. The meeting lasted **for** two hours.
08. The meeting lasted **for** the whole morning.
09. We stayed at the hotel **for** one night.
10. We stayed at the hotel **for** three nights.
11. We stayed at the hotel **for** five nights.
12. We stayed at the hotel **for** a week.
13. Julia studied at the library **for** an hour.
14. Julia studied at the library **for** two hours.
15. Julia studied at the library **for** the whole afternoon.
16. Julia studied at the library **for** nearly three hours.
17. The doctor was on call **for** six hours.
18. The doctor was on call **for** twelve hours.
19. The doctor was on call **for** the whole weekend.
20. The doctor was on call **for** the whole night.
21. They lived near the sea **for** six months.
22. They lived near the sea **for** two years.
23. They lived near the sea **for** ten years.
24. They lived near the sea **for** a long time.
25. The archive was closed to the public **for** one day.
26. The archive was closed to the public **for** two weeks.
27. The archive was closed to the public **for** three months.
28. The archive was closed to the public **for** part of the winter.
29. The call went on **for** a few minutes.
30. The call went on **for** half an hour.
31. The call went on **for** nearly an hour.
32. The call went on **for** more than two hours.
33. The team trained **for** ninety minutes.
34. The team trained **for** two hours.
35. The team trained **for** the whole morning.
36. The team trained **for** the whole afternoon.
37. The train remained at the station **for** a few minutes.
38. The train remained at the station **for** nearly an hour.
39. The train remained at the station **for** two hours.
40. The train remained at the station **for** the whole night.