During, while and for

Use the grammar after the gap and the meaning of the whole sentence.

Use **while** before a clause. Use **for** before a duration.

Worked example

I listened to music **while** I was working.

Complete each gap with while or for.

01. Escuché un pódcast mientras caminaba al trabajo.
I listened to a podcast _____ I was walking to work.

02. Escuché un pódcast mientras lavaba los platos.
I listened to a podcast _____ I was washing the dishes.

03. Escuché un pódcast mientras esperaba el autobús.
I listened to a podcast _____ I was waiting for the bus.

04. Escuché un pódcast mientras preparaba la cena.
I listened to a podcast _____ I was making dinner.

05. El gato se escondió debajo de la cama mientras los fuegos artificiales estallaban.
The cat hid under the bed _____ the fireworks were going off.

06. El gato se escondió debajo de la cama mientras sonaba el timbre.
The cat hid under the bed _____ the doorbell was ringing.

07. El gato se escondió debajo de la cama mientras los niños jugaban.
The cat hid under the bed _____ the children were playing.

08. El gato se escondió debajo de la cama mientras el perro ladraba.
The cat hid under the bed _____ the dog was barking.

09. Pude revisar mis mensajes mientras esperaba el tren.
I was able to check my messages _____ I was waiting for the train.

10. Pude revisar mis mensajes mientras estaba en la sala de espera.
I was able to check my messages _____ I was in the waiting room.

11. Pude revisar mis mensajes mientras descansábamos en la cafetería.
I was able to check my messages _____ we were resting in the café.

12. Pude revisar mis mensajes mientras viajábamos en taxi.
I was able to check my messages _____ we were travelling by taxi.

13. Alguien dejó un paquete en la puerta mientras yo estaba en el jardín.
Someone left a parcel at the door _____ I was in the garden.

14. Alguien dejó un paquete en la puerta mientras los vecinos estaban fuera.
Someone left a parcel at the door _____ the neighbours were out.

15. Alguien dejó un paquete en la puerta mientras todos dormían.
Someone left a parcel at the door _____ everyone was sleeping.

16. Alguien dejó un paquete en la puerta mientras trabajábamos en el garaje.
Someone left a parcel at the door _____ we were working in the garage.

17. El profesor escribió la fecha en la pizarra mientras la clase sacaba sus cuadernos.
The teacher wrote the date on the board _____ the class was taking out their notebooks.

18. El profesor escribió la fecha en la pizarra mientras los alumnos buscaban la página.
The teacher wrote the date on the board _____ the students were finding the page.

19. El profesor escribió la fecha en la pizarra mientras yo abría el libro.
The teacher wrote the date on the board _____ I was opening the book.

20. El profesor escribió la fecha en la pizarra mientras todos se sentaban.
The teacher wrote the date on the board _____ everyone was sitting down.

While or for

Continue. Complete only the gap in English.

21. El personal limpió el vestíbulo veinte minutos.
The staff cleaned the lobby _____ twenty minutes.

22. El personal limpió el vestíbulo una hora.
The staff cleaned the lobby _____ an hour.

23. El personal limpió el vestíbulo toda la mañana.
The staff cleaned the lobby _____ the whole morning.

24. El personal limpió el vestíbulo parte de la tarde.
The staff cleaned the lobby _____ part of the afternoon.

25. Mi familia alquiló una casa en la costa un fin de semana.
My family rented a house on the coast _____ a weekend.

26. Mi familia alquiló una casa en la costa cinco días.
My family rented a house on the coast _____ five days.

27. Mi familia alquiló una casa en la costa dos semanas.
My family rented a house on the coast _____ two weeks.

28. Mi familia alquiló una casa en la costa todo el verano.
My family rented a house on the coast _____ the whole summer.

29. El documental duró cuarenta y cinco minutos.
The documentary lasted _____ forty-five minutes.

30. El documental duró una hora.
The documentary lasted _____ an hour.

31. El documental duró dos horas.
The documentary lasted _____ two hours.

32. El documental duró casi tres horas.
The documentary lasted _____ nearly three hours.

33. La doctora habló con cada paciente unos minutos.
The doctor spoke to each patient _____ a few minutes.

34. La doctora habló con cada paciente un cuarto de hora.
The doctor spoke to each patient _____ a quarter of an hour.

35. La doctora habló con cada paciente media hora.
The doctor spoke to each patient _____ half an hour.

36. La doctora habló con cada paciente casi una hora.
The doctor spoke to each patient _____ nearly an hour.

37. Los vecinos estuvieron fuera de casa una noche.
The neighbours were away from home _____ one night.

38. Los vecinos estuvieron fuera de casa tres días.
The neighbours were away from home _____ three days.

39. Los vecinos estuvieron fuera de casa una semana.
The neighbours were away from home _____ a week.

40. Los vecinos estuvieron fuera de casa casi un mes.
The neighbours were away from home _____ nearly a month.

Answer key

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

01. I listened to a podcast **while** I was walking to work.
02. I listened to a podcast **while** I was washing the dishes.
03. I listened to a podcast **while** I was waiting for the bus.
04. I listened to a podcast **while** I was making dinner.
05. The cat hid under the bed **while** the fireworks were going off.
06. The cat hid under the bed **while** the doorbell was ringing.
07. The cat hid under the bed **while** the children were playing.
08. The cat hid under the bed **while** the dog was barking.
09. I was able to check my messages **while** I was waiting for the train.
10. I was able to check my messages **while** I was in the waiting room.
11. I was able to check my messages **while** we were resting in the café.
12. I was able to check my messages **while** we were travelling by taxi.
13. Someone left a parcel at the door **while** I was in the garden.
14. Someone left a parcel at the door **while** the neighbours were out.
15. Someone left a parcel at the door **while** everyone was sleeping.
16. Someone left a parcel at the door **while** we were working in the garage.
17. The teacher wrote the date on the board **while** the class was taking out their notebooks.
18. The teacher wrote the date on the board **while** the students were finding the page.
19. The teacher wrote the date on the board **while** I was opening the book.
20. The teacher wrote the date on the board **while** everyone was sitting down.
21. The staff cleaned the lobby **for** twenty minutes.
22. The staff cleaned the lobby **for** an hour.
23. The staff cleaned the lobby **for** the whole morning.
24. The staff cleaned the lobby **for** part of the afternoon.
25. My family rented a house on the coast **for** a weekend.
26. My family rented a house on the coast **for** five days.
27. My family rented a house on the coast **for** two weeks.
28. My family rented a house on the coast **for** the whole summer.
29. The documentary lasted **for** forty-five minutes.
30. The documentary lasted **for** an hour.
31. The documentary lasted **for** two hours.
32. The documentary lasted **for** nearly three hours.
33. The doctor spoke to each patient **for** a few minutes.
34. The doctor spoke to each patient **for** a quarter of an hour.
35. The doctor spoke to each patient **for** half an hour.
36. The doctor spoke to each patient **for** nearly an hour.
37. The neighbours were away from home **for** one night.
38. The neighbours were away from home **for** three days.
39. The neighbours were away from home **for** a week.
40. The neighbours were away from home **for** nearly a month.