During, while and for

Use the complete sentence to decide whether it describes when or how long.

Choose between **during**, **while** and **for**.

Worked example

The shop was closed **for** two days.

Complete each gap with the correct word.

01. El museo recibió a grupos escolares toda la mañana.
The museum welcomed school groups _____ the whole morning.

02. El museo recibió a grupos escolares varias horas.
The museum welcomed school groups _____ several hours.

03. El museo recibió a grupos escolares todo el día.
The museum welcomed school groups _____ the whole day.

04. El museo recibió a grupos escolares toda la semana.
The museum welcomed school groups _____ the whole week.

05. Un bombero explicó qué hacer durante el simulacro.
A firefighter explained what to do _____ the drill.

06. Un bombero explicó qué hacer durante la charla.
A firefighter explained what to do _____ the talk.

07. Un bombero explicó qué hacer durante la visita.
A firefighter explained what to do _____ the visit.

08. Un bombero explicó qué hacer durante la sesión de preguntas.
A firefighter explained what to do _____ the question session.

09. La cocinera probó la sopa mientras se calentaba.
The cook tasted the soup _____ it was heating up.

10. La cocinera probó la sopa mientras añadía las hierbas.
The cook tasted the soup _____ she was adding the herbs.

11. La cocinera probó la sopa mientras preparaba el almuerzo.
The cook tasted the soup _____ she was preparing lunch.

12. La cocinera probó la sopa mientras los demás ponían la mesa.
The cook tasted the soup _____ the others were setting the table.

13. El ascensor estuvo fuera de servicio unas horas.
The lift was out of service _____ a few hours.

14. El ascensor estuvo fuera de servicio dos días.
The lift was out of service _____ two days.

15. El ascensor estuvo fuera de servicio una semana.
The lift was out of service _____ a week.

16. El ascensor estuvo fuera de servicio varios meses.
The lift was out of service _____ several months.

17. El público aplaudió varias veces durante el concierto.
The audience applauded several times _____ the concert.

18. El público aplaudió varias veces durante la obra.
The audience applauded several times _____ the play.

19. El público aplaudió varias veces durante el espectáculo.
The audience applauded several times _____ the show.

20. El público aplaudió varias veces durante la ceremonia.
The audience applauded several times _____ the ceremony.

Mixed practice

Continue. Complete only the gap in English.

21. El tren redujo la velocidad mientras se acercaba a la estación.
The train slowed down _____ it was approaching the station.

22. El tren redujo la velocidad mientras atravesaba el túnel.
The train slowed down _____ it was going through the tunnel.

23. El tren redujo la velocidad mientras pasaba junto al río.
The train slowed down _____ it was passing by the river.

24. El tren redujo la velocidad mientras el conductor comprobaba la señal.
The train slowed down _____ the driver was checking the signal.

25. La familia esperó en la sala diez minutos.
The family waited in the lounge _____ ten minutes.

26. La familia esperó en la sala una hora.
The family waited in the lounge _____ an hour.

27. La familia esperó en la sala toda la tarde.
The family waited in the lounge _____ the whole afternoon.

28. La familia esperó en la sala casi dos horas.
The family waited in the lounge _____ nearly two hours.

29. El personal encontró una cartera durante la limpieza.
The staff found a wallet _____ the cleaning.

30. El personal encontró una cartera durante la inspección.
The staff found a wallet _____ the inspection.

31. El personal encontró una cartera durante el cambio de turno.
The staff found a wallet _____ the shift change.

32. El personal encontró una cartera durante la búsqueda.
The staff found a wallet _____ the search.

33. Mi hermana preparó el café mientras yo cortaba el pan.
My sister made the coffee _____ I was cutting the bread.

34. Mi hermana preparó el café mientras mi padre ponía la mesa.
My sister made the coffee _____ my father was setting the table.

35. Mi hermana preparó el café mientras esperaban a los invitados.
My sister made the coffee _____ they were waiting for the guests.

36. Mi hermana preparó el café mientras el agua hervía.
My sister made the coffee _____ the water was boiling.

37. La tienda ofreció descuentos especiales un día.
The shop offered special discounts _____ one day.

38. La tienda ofreció descuentos especiales todo el fin de semana.
The shop offered special discounts _____ the whole weekend.

39. La tienda ofreció descuentos especiales dos semanas.
The shop offered special discounts _____ two weeks.

40. La tienda ofreció descuentos especiales un mes.
The shop offered special discounts _____ a month.

Answer key

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

01. The museum welcomed school groups **for** the whole morning.
02. The museum welcomed school groups **for** several hours.
03. The museum welcomed school groups **for** the whole day.
04. The museum welcomed school groups **for** the whole week.
05. A firefighter explained what to do **during** the drill.
06. A firefighter explained what to do **during** the talk.
07. A firefighter explained what to do **during** the visit.
08. A firefighter explained what to do **during** the question session.
09. The cook tasted the soup **while** it was heating up.
10. The cook tasted the soup **while** she was adding the herbs.
11. The cook tasted the soup **while** she was preparing lunch.
12. The cook tasted the soup **while** the others were setting the table.
13. The lift was out of service **for** a few hours.
14. The lift was out of service **for** two days.
15. The lift was out of service **for** a week.
16. The lift was out of service **for** several months.
17. The audience applauded several times **during** the concert.
18. The audience applauded several times **during** the play.
19. The audience applauded several times **during** the show.
20. The audience applauded several times **during** the ceremony.
21. The train slowed down **while** it was approaching the station.
22. The train slowed down **while** it was going through the tunnel.
23. The train slowed down **while** it was passing by the river.
24. The train slowed down **while** the driver was checking the signal.
25. The family waited in the lounge **for** ten minutes.
26. The family waited in the lounge **for** an hour.
27. The family waited in the lounge **for** the whole afternoon.
28. The family waited in the lounge **for** nearly two hours.
29. The staff found a wallet **during** the cleaning.
30. The staff found a wallet **during** the inspection.
31. The staff found a wallet **during** the shift change.
32. The staff found a wallet **during** the search.
33. My sister made the coffee **while** I was cutting the bread.
34. My sister made the coffee **while** my father was setting the table.
35. My sister made the coffee **while** they were waiting for the guests.
36. My sister made the coffee **while** the water was boiling.
37. The shop offered special discounts **for** one day.
38. The shop offered special discounts **for** the whole weekend.
39. The shop offered special discounts **for** two weeks.
40. The shop offered special discounts **for** a month.