

Commonly confused nouns: time words

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a The effects will only be seen over a long duration.
b The effects will only be seen over a long period of time.
- 2 a Managers are expected to work for long time.
b Managers are expected to work long hours.

We use *hours* to talk about the time during a day or week when something usually happens, especially the time when someone works or when something is open:

working hours

office hours

opening hours

Most nannies **work long hours** for low pay. (= they work many hours a day)

We use *period* or *period of time* to talk about a particular length of time:

Sales rose by 20% over **a six-month period**/over **a period of six months**.

Sportsmen can earn a lot of money, but only for **a relatively short period of time**.

We use *duration* in formal writing to talk about how long something lasts:

Make sure that your visa is valid for **the duration of your stay**.

The *timing* of something is when it happens within the context of other events:

He said **the timing of the announcement** is not related to next week's board meeting.

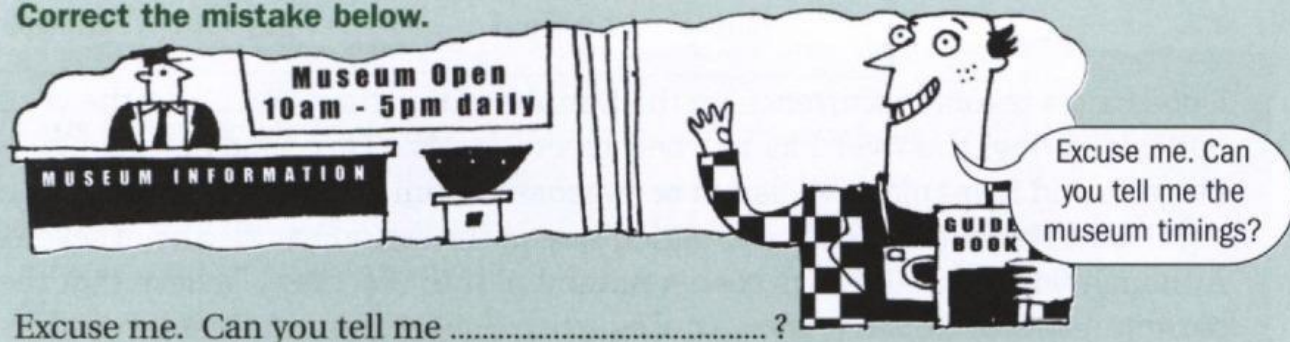
Time is also used in a number of common expressions:

How do people spend their **spare time/free time/leisure time**?

We spent **most of the time** on the beach. (not ~~most of the times~~)

We haven't seen each other for **a long time**. (not ~~for long time~~)

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Complete the sentences using one of the words above in each gap.

- 1 It will take a long to repair all the damage.
- 2 The rate fell gradually over the from 1990 to 2000.
- 3 Passengers are not permitted to smoke for the of the flight.
- 4 Office are from 9.00am to 5.30pm.
- 5 Many have criticised the of the referendum.
- 6 He spends a lot of his spare in the garden.
- 7 He built up his reputation over a of time.
- 8 We are sometimes asked to work extra at weekends.