

How long or When?

Let's take a look at the expression “how long”

The expression “how long” is used in questions to ask about the duration of something or to measure time. For example:

How long have you lived in Spain?

How long have you studied English?

Notice that again the expression “how long” is used with the present perfect form to show that the action is still true in the present moment.

How long have you lived in Spain? (you are still living in Spain at the time of asking)

However, the expression “how long” can also be used with the past simple form and the auxiliary verb “did” to find out about a past action or event which is finished.

How long did you live in Spain? (you don't live there anymore)

How long did you study English? (you don't study anymore)

When as a question Word

We can use when to ask for information about what time something happens:

When did you leave?

When are you going on holiday?

When will you know the result of the exam?

We can use when in indirect questions:

She asked me when I would be ready to start the job.

I wonder when the new computers will arrive.

Fill in the blanks with How long, When or the correct prepositions of place

A: _____ is the Latin American Film Festival?

B: One week. It lasts _____ June 1st to June 7th.

A: _____ is the Passover holiday?

B: It's _____ the spring.

A: _____ is the game?

B: It lasts _____ one and a half hours.

A: _____ are you staying at the party?

B: I'm staying _____ 11:00. And you?

A: _____ do they celebrate Independence Day in Bolivia?

B: They celebrate _____ August 6th.