

Preposiciones temporales funcionales

Las siguientes preposiciones temporales tienen un uso más funcional: muestran cómo se relacionan dos o más acontecimientos en el tiempo. Por ejemplo, "Lisa jogs before dinner" significa que Lisa corre primero y cena después.

Preposition	Use	Examples
before	antes de	Before work, Tony eats breakfast.
from... to	hora de inicio... hora final	Tony works from 9 AM to 5 PM.
from... until/till	hora inicial... hora final	Tony works from 9 AM until 5 PM.
for	cantidad de tiempo	Tony works for eight hours.
during	dentro de un tiempo	During the day, Tony eats a small snack and lunch.
by	antes de un momento	By 5 PM, Tony is quite hungry again.
after	después de	After work, Tony goes home and eats dinner.
in	dentro de una cantidad de tiempo	Tony eats four times in twelve hours.

to vs. until vs. till

Tanto "to" como "until" expresan ideas similares, pero hay una diferencia de uso entre ambas palabras. *To* es una preposición y debe ir seguida de un sustantivo, normalmente la hora de un reloj, como 3:45 PM.

Until es tanto una preposición como un adverbio, lo que significa que es más flexible. Hasta puede ir seguida de cualquier sustantivo de tiempo o incluso de una cláusula entera. Si te confundes, puedes utilizar *until* y siempre será correcto. [*Till* es una versión corta y menos formal de *until*. *Till* (también escrito como *'til*) es más común en el inglés hablado].

Ejemplos:

- Jane stayed from 3:30 **to** 5:30. / Jane stayed from 3:30 **until** 5:30.
- Jane stayed **until** the end. / Jane stayed **till** the end.
- Jane stayed **until** every person in the room had left. / Jane stayed **till** every person in the room had left.

Vamos a practicar...

Fill in the blank with the correct preposition—**after, before, by, from, to, until, during, for, in** or **X**.

1. I haven't had a vacation _____ two years. Hopefully, I will be able to take one _____ next summer at the latest.

2. We were on the boat _____ three days in very rough seas. I think everybody was seasick _____ the time the cruise was over.

3. A lot of people say you shouldn't eat _____ swimming, but I don't know if that is true.

4. Nobody made a sound _____ the speech. It was so good that there was total silence _____ the moment he started speaking _____ the last word came out of his mouth.

5. I ordered a new smart phone online. The site said my phone would arrive _____ 3 to 5 days, but I had to wait _____ almost a month.
6. I have class _____ 9 AM _____ 1:30 PM on Wednesdays. I always eat breakfast _____ class and lunch _____ class, but my lunches are a bit late because I can't eat _____ I get home around 2 PM.
7. Just wait a second, I'll be there _____ a minute.
8. Somebody's phone started ringing _____ the movie. It kept ringing _____ two or three minutes, and all the people in the theater were looking around trying to figure out whose phone it was. I was furious _____ I realized it was my phone.
9. I've been sitting here _____ more than an hour. If they don't arrive _____ the next ten minutes, I'm going to leave.
10. Every Friday, I meet up with friends _____ work for drinks and dinner. We usually hang out together _____ 6 PM _____ midnight. I'm usually back home _____ 1 AM.

Now, write original sentences using the functional prepositions of time—**after, before, by, from, to, until, during, for, or in**.