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.

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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**.*

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