

1. The project \_\_\_\_\_ on for weeks before it was finally completed.
2. By the time I arrived, the cake \_\_\_\_\_ for hours.
3. The old house \_\_\_\_\_ for several months when they decided to sell it.
4. The novel \_\_\_\_\_ for years before it was published.
5. By the time they reached the airport, the flight \_\_\_\_\_ for hours.
6. The garden \_\_\_\_\_ to with care by the time the visitors arrived.
7. The car \_\_\_\_\_ for days before it broke down again.
8. The new bridge \_\_\_\_\_ for months before it opened to the public.
9. The dinner \_\_\_\_\_ for hours before they sat down to eat.
10. By the time he got the message, the news \_\_\_\_\_ all over town.
11. The film \_\_\_\_\_ for weeks before it was ready for screening.
12. The concert \_\_\_\_\_ for weeks before it was performed live.
13. The letter \_\_\_\_\_ for hours before she finally sent it.
14. By the time they got to the party, the decorations \_\_\_\_\_ for a long time.
15. The book \_\_\_\_\_ by many people before it became a bestseller.
16. The speech \_\_\_\_\_ for days before the conference.
17. The experiment \_\_\_\_\_ for months before they found conclusive results.
18. The story \_\_\_\_\_ for generations before it was written down.
19. The play \_\_\_\_\_ for weeks before it received critical acclaim