

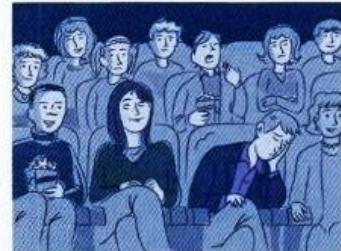
For, during and while

A

For and during

We use **for** + a period of time to say how long something goes on:
for two hours **for a week** **for ages**

- We watched TV **for two hours** last night.
- Jess is going away **for a week** in September.
- Where have you been? I've been waiting **for ages**.
- Are you going away **for the weekend**?



I fell asleep **during the movie**.

We use **during** + *noun* to say when something happens (*not* how long):
during the movie **during our holiday** **during the night**

- I fell asleep **during the movie**.
- We met some really nice people **during our holiday**.
- The ground is wet. It must have rained **during the night**.

With 'time words' (for example: **the morning** / **the afternoon** / **the summer**), you can usually say **in** or **during**:

- It must have rained **in the night**. *or ... during the night*.
- I'll phone you sometime **during the afternoon**. *or ... in the afternoon*.

You cannot use **during** to say how long something goes on:

- It rained **for** three days without stopping. (*not* during three days)

Compare **during** and **for**:

- I fell asleep **during the movie**. I was asleep **for half an hour**.

B

During and while

Compare:

We use **during** + *noun*:

- I fell asleep **during the movie**.
└ noun ┘
- We met a lot of interesting people **during our holiday**.
- Robert suddenly began to feel ill **during the exam**.

We use **while** + *subject* + *verb*:

- I fell asleep **while I was watching TV**.
└ subject + verb ┘
- We met a lot of interesting people **while we were on holiday**.
- Robert suddenly began to feel ill **while he was doing the exam**.

Some more examples of **while**:

- We saw Clare **while we were waiting** for the bus.
- While you were** out, there was a phone call for you.
- Alex read a book **while I watched** TV.



Alex read a book **while I watched** TV.

When you are talking about the future, use the **present** (*not* **will**) after **while**:

- I'm going to Singapore next week. I hope to see some friends of mine **while I'm** there. (*not* while I **will be** there)
- What are you going to do **while you're** waiting? (*not* while you'll be waiting)

See also Unit 25.

Exercises

119.1 Put in **for** or **during**.

- 1 It rained for three days without stopping.
- 2 I fell asleep during the movie.
- 3 I went to the theatre last night. I met Sue the interval.
- 4 Martin hasn't lived in Britain all his life. He lived in Brazil four years.
- 5 Production at the factory was seriously affected the strike.
- 6 I felt really ill last week. I could hardly eat anything three days.
- 7 I waited for you half an hour and decided that you weren't coming.
- 8 Sarah was very angry with me. She didn't speak to me a week.
- 9 We usually go out at weekends, but we don't go out the week very often.
- 10 Jack started a new job a few weeks ago. Before that he was out of work six months.
- 11 I need a break. I think I'll go away a few days.
- 12 The president gave a long speech. She spoke two hours.
- 13 We were hungry when we arrived. We hadn't had anything to eat the journey.
- 14 We were hungry when we arrived. We hadn't had anything to eat eight hours.

119.2 Put in **during** or **while**.

- 1 We met a lot of interesting people while we were on holiday.
- 2 We met a lot of interesting people during our holiday.
- 3 I met Mike I was shopping.
- 4 I was on holiday, I didn't read any newspapers or watch TV.
- 5 our stay in Paris, we went to a lot of museums and galleries.
- 6 My phone rang we were having dinner.
- 7 There was a lot of noise the night. What was it?
- 8 I'd been away for many years. that time, many things had changed.
- 9 What did they say about me I was out of the room?
- 10 I went out for dinner last night. Unfortunately I began to feel ill the meal and had to go home.
- 11 Please don't interrupt me I'm speaking.
- 12 There were many interruptions the president's speech.
- 13 Can you hold my bag I try on this jacket?
- 14 We were hungry when we arrived. We hadn't had anything to eat we were travelling.

119.3 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences.

- 1 I fell asleep while I was watching TV.
- 2 I fell asleep during the movie.
- 3 Nobody came to see me while
- 4 Can you wait for me while
- 5 Most of the students looked bored during
- 6 I was asked a lot of questions during
- 7 Don't open the car door while
- 8 The lights suddenly went out while
- 9 It started to rain during
- 10 It started to rain while
- 11 What are you going to do while