27 Commonly confused nouns: time words

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1 a The effects will only be seen over a long duration.
  b The effects will only be seen over a long period of time.
2 a Managers are expected to work for long time.
  b Managers are expected to work long hours.

We use *hours* to talk about the time during a day or week when something usually happens, especially the time when someone works or when something is open:
working hours *office hours* *opening hours*
Most nannies ***work long hours*** *for low pay.* (= they work many hours a day)

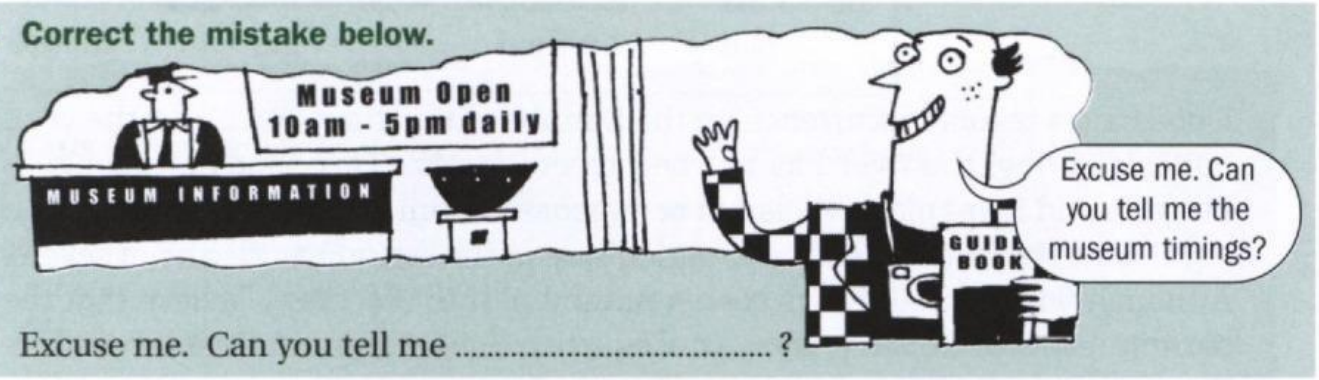
We use *period* or *period of time* to talk about a particular length of time:
Sales rose by 20% over ***a six-month period****/over* ***a period of six months****.*
Sportsmen can earn a lot of money, but only for ***a*** *relatively* ***short period of time****.*

We use *duration* in formal writing to talk about how long something lasts:
Make sure that your visa is valid for ***the duration of*** *your stay.*

The *timing* of something is when it happens within the context of other events:
He said ***the timing of*** *the announcement is not related to next week's board meeting.*

Time is also used in a number of common expressions:
How do people spend their ***spare time/free time/leisure time****?*
We spent ***most of the time*** *on the beach.* (not ~~*most of the times*~~)
We haven't seen each other for ***a long time****.* (not ~~*for long time*~~)

2 Correct the mistake below.



Excuse me. Can you tell me ..... ?

3 Complete the sentences using one of the words above in each gap.

1 It will take a long ..... to repair all the damage.
2 The rate fell gradually over the ..... from 1990 to 2000.
3 Passengers are not permitted to smoke for the ..... of the flight.
4 Office ..... are from 9.00am to 5.30pm.
5 Many have criticised the ..... of the referendum.
6 He spends a lot of his spare ..... in the garden.
7 He built up his reputation over a ..... of time.
8 We are sometimes asked to work extra ..... at weekends.

LIVEWORKSHEETS