GRAMMAR

prepositions of time

1 A **The sentences below have a mistake. Choose the best option to correct the mistake.**

1 I didn't have time to have lunch until the break.
a between **b** on **c** during

2 What are you going to do in New Year's Day?
a between **b** on **c** at

3 I'll wait here before you're ready to go and then we can leave together.
a until **b** after **c** during

4 We worked together during 2019 and 2021.
a on **b** between **c** until

B **Complete the sentences with a preposition of time.**

1 Amy shared a flat with two of her friends from 2018 _____ last year.

2 I like to eat ice cream _____ a film.

3 I'll see you _____ about three hours' time.

4 Let's clean the kitchen _____ we've eaten dinner, or our food will go cold.

5 I was born _____ the 2000s.

6 We need to go to the bank _____ we go shopping so we have some money to spend.

READING

2 A **Read the article. Decide which place each sentence is about: Shanghai (S), the Aral Sea (A) or Houtouwan (H).**

1 Only a small number of people live in this area.

2 The buildings are not the same as forty years ago.

3 It's greener here than in the past.

4 The size of this place changed because of farming.

5 There are double the number of people there today compared to the early 2000s.

6 Local people can do an activity here that they couldn't do a few years ago.

7 The area and population are increasing a lot.

B **Complete the information with numbers from the article.**

1 The population of the Houtouwan area in the early 1990s: _____

2 The percentage of water compared with the past that is still in the Aral Sea today: _____

3 How many metres high the first tall building in Shanghai was: _____

4 How many millions of dollars it cost to get more water into the Aral Sea: _____

5 The number of hours it takes to get to Houtouwan from Shanghai: _____

6 The number of millions of people who live in Shanghai today: _____

Three places that have changed a lot in the last forty years

Shanghai, China

Look at photos of Shanghai in the 1980s and you'll see a very different city to the one that's there now. There were no tall buildings along the river – no famous view that tourists come to take photos of. In 1996, the 632-metre-high Oriental Pearl Tower opened and was the only tall building in the area. Now there are tall buildings all around it. It's not just the buildings that have changed. Shanghai's size has changed, too. In 1984, the city was around 308 km² in area size. Today it's over 6,200 km². It has twice the population that it had around twenty years ago, with 26 million people, and is one of the fastest growing cities in the world.



The Aral Sea

The Aral Sea once was one of the largest lakes in the world. When water from two rivers was pushed into different directions to help grow food, the lake became smaller. By the 2010s, the lake was so small that the fishing industry died. The lake is now just 10 percent of its past size, with some water in the north near Kazakhstan, and a little in the west. The part in the east near Uzbekistan is now a desert. A plan to make the lake bigger near Kazakhstan has been successful. This is both by stopping water from leaving and helping water to enter the lake. The plan has cost $87m dollars, but fishing near the city of Aralsk is now possible again.

Houtouwan, Shengshan Island, China

Off the coast of Shanghai is Shengshan Island, one of 400 islands in the area. On the island is the village of Houtouwan, which was once the home of over 2,000 people, but is now the home of just a few. People began leaving the village in the 1990s to look for work on other parts of the island. Today, their homes are still there, many with furniture still inside. However, nature is taking the village back. Plants are growing over and inside the buildings. That's why tourists take a three-hour journey from Shanghai to see this unusual place. And local people earn money by selling them water.

LIVEWORKSHEETS