

Worksheet GB No. 45

Grammar Bite 45: "For or during? (time) ☆☆☆

(☆☆ = Basic ☆☆☆ = Intermediate ☆☆☆☆ = Advanced)

Activity

Put one of these words in each blank:

for during

- 1 He made an obscene gesture to a referee _____ the British Open.
- 2 Advertising increased by 25% _____ the year
- 3 Holden was missing _____ 18 minutes and Reid was getting worried.
- 4 A well-drained site which retains moisture _____ the summer months
- 5 But disciplinary cultures are not fixed _____ all time.
- 6 He decided not to stay _____ the whole month.
- 7 He had been Sam's best customer _____ his vacation
- 8 You will have the chance to chat _____ the coffee break.
- 9 they kept the fire going _____ a long time
- 10 _____ a moment he couldn't look at her but she said his name.

for during

- 11 This has been recognized _____ a long time.
- 12 England looked so pleased _____ the World Cup!
- 13 Fishing boats should be obliged to remain in port _____ eight consecutive days each month
- 14 It was _____ one of these sessions that Mikes had the idea.
- 15 He looked as though he had been there _____ some time.

Notes

For and during (time)

We use *for* to talk about time and many other things; we use *during* to talk about time.

For

We use *for* when we specify the whole period of time:

*I'm staying with Sam **for** Christmas.
He went home **for** a week.*

During

We use *during* when we talk about a period of time **within which** other things happened:

*I saw him twice **during** the summer.
During the day they phoned four times.*

In

One of the meanings of *in* is *during*. Check the sentences on the left where *during* is the right answer: *in* will always fit too.

Advanced notes

90% or more of the occurrences of *for* are about purpose, not time. Examples:

*This book is **for** you.
This marker is **for** writing on CDs.*

...and even when we use *for* for time, there is often a hint of purpose.

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