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Basics. Time Prepositions: Before, After, During, and While

Easy | A1 | Elementary | Beginners | A2 | Elementary | Pre-intermediate | Clause | Conjunction | Imperative mood | Past tense | Phrase | Preposition | Progressive tense

1. Complete the wilderness survival guide's most crucial rule.

Always remember to lock the cabin door _____ you go to bed, or the raccoons will steal your snacks!

Select one.

- **A)** after
- **B)** during
- **C)** while
- **D)** before

2. Help the kindergarten teacher set the rules for the classroom! Select ALL the phrases that correctly complete the sentence.

I always wash my hands _____.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** **before** dinner
- **B)** **after** I play with the dog
- **C)** **during** I eat
- **D)** **while** the meal

3. Complete the sleepy moviegoer's confession by selecting the correct time word for each gap.

I always buy my snacks _____ the movie starts, so I don't miss the beginning! However, yesterday I was so tired that I fell asleep _____ the main action scene. My sneaky best friend ate all my popcorn _____ I was dreaming about pizza!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** after
- **B)** before
- **C)** while

Blank 2

- **A)** during
- **B)** while
- **C)** before

Blank 3

- **A)** during
- **B)** while
- **C)** after

4. Complete the clumsy chef's incident report by dragging the correct time words into the empty spaces.

I made sure to wash my hands thoroughly _____ I started chopping the onions, just like the health inspector asked. However, I started crying uncontrollably _____ I was cutting them. Because I couldn't see clearly through my tears, I had to wear a large bandage _____ I accidentally sliced my finger!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** before
- **B)** after
- **C)** during

Blank 2

- **A)** while
- **B)** during
- **C)** after

Blank 3

- **A)** after
- **B)** before
- **C)** while

5. Help the amateur chef complete their funny recipe review by choosing the right words.

The kitchen fire alarm went off loudly _____ our baking class. We all had to stand outside in the cold _____ the firefighters checked the oven. Thankfully, everything was safe, and we finally got to eat our burnt cookies _____ they left!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** during
- **B)** while
- **C)** after

Blank 2

- **A)** during
- **B)** while
- **C)** before

Blank 3

- **A)** before
- **B)** after
- **C)** while

6. An alien spy is sending a report about strange human behavior. Select ALL the grammatically correct observations to send to the mothership!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Humans look at their phones **during** dinner.
- **B)** Humans look at their phones **while** they walk.
- **C)** Humans look at their phones **during** they walk.
- **D)** Humans look at their phones **while** dinner.

7. Help the embarrassed teenager complete his text message about a disastrous date by dragging the correct time words into the blanks.

We got to the theater early, so we bought our popcorn _____ the movie started. Everything was fine at first, but I accidentally fell asleep _____ the main feature! I only woke up _____ my date was angrily shaking my arm to tell me it was over. Next time, I am drinking three cups of coffee!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** before
- **B)** after
- **C)** while

Blank 2

- **A)** during
- **B)** while
- **C)** before

Blank 3

- **A)** while
- **B)** during
- **C)** after

8. Complete the amateur chef's embarrassing confession.

The smoke alarm started blaring _____ I was trying to microwave a whole watermelon.

Select one.

- **A)** during
- **B)** until
- **C)** while
- **D)** after

9. Help the teacher's assistant note down what happened in class by selecting ALL the grammatically correct sentences.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Leo fell asleep **during** the movie.
- **B)** Leo fell asleep **while** he was watching the movie.
- **C)** Leo fell asleep **during** he was watching the movie.
- **D)** Leo fell asleep **while** the movie.

10. Help the tired student finish her text message.

I accidentally fell asleep _____ the three-hour documentary about competitive snail racing.

Select one.

- **A)** during
- **B)** while
- **C)** when
- **D)** because