

Prepositions of Time (2)

There are two German words that are tricky when you translate them:



The difference between **while** and **during** is simple:

While + small sentence / gerund : e.g. **While** I was waiting / **While** waiting
(I cannot say "While the meeting")

During + noun e.g. During the meeting
(I cannot say "During I was waiting")

The difference between **by** and **until** is a bit harder:

By is like a deadline e.g. We must finish the work **by** Friday.

Until is when something continues until a point in time e.g. I worked **until** 5pm.

We can think of **by** as "*bis spätestens*" and **until** as "*die ganze Zeit bis*"

Now fill in **while**, **during**, **by** or **until**:

1. I took the minutes _____ the meeting.
2. My mobile rang _____ I was on the other phone.
3. We should receive the goods _____ Monday at the latest.
4. The banks are usually open _____ 5 pm.
5. Could you please organize the hotel _____ I book the car?
6. Can you please answer the phones _____ I get back?
7. The accident happened _____ my holidays.
8. It was hard knowing the differences between these words _____
I did this exercise.
9. _____ I was working, Mary had a long break.
10. I will be finished with this project _____ the time you get back.

key:

1. I took the minutes **during** the meeting.
2. My mobile rang **while** I was on the other phone.
3. We should receive the goods **by** Monday at the latest.
4. The banks are usually open **until** 5 pm.
5. Could you please organize the hotel **while** I book the car?
6. Can you please answer the phones **until** I get back?
7. The accident happened **during** my holidays.
8. It was hard knowing the differences between these words **until** I did this exercise.
9. **While** I was working, Mary had a long break.
10. I will be finished with this project **by** the time you get back.