

UNIT 22 before, after, while, during

1. 'before' and 'after' are used to show the sequence of two (sometimes more) events which take place one after the other.

Example A

Herman brushed his teeth. Then he washed his face.

Answer 1

Herman washed his face **after** he brushed his teeth.

Answer 2

After Herman brushed his teeth, he washed his face.

NOTE:

'after' can be used both at the beginning and in the middle of sentences. Note there is no change of tenses in either sentence.

Example B

Franny toasted the muffin and buttered it.

Answer 1

Franny toasted the muffin **before** she buttered it.

Answer 2

Before Franny buttered the muffin, she toasted it.

NOTE:

'before' refers to the earlier of two events in a sentence.

2. 'while' and 'during' is used when an event or incident happened while another is ongoing.

Example C

I was doing my homework. The phone rang.

Answer 1

The phone rang **while** I was doing my homework.

Answer 2

While I was doing my homework, the phone rang.

NOTE:

Remember that 'while' refers to the ongoing (or continuous) event (doing homework).

Example D

Xavier worked as a waiter. He was staying in California then.

Answer 1

Xavier worked as a waiter **during** his stay in California.

Answer 2

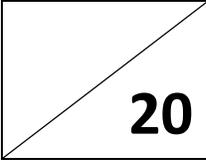
During his stay in California, Xavier worked as a waiter.

NOTE:

When using 'during' note that the verb (in this case 'was staying') would have to be changed to noun phrases ('his stay').

EXERCISE

For each question, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).



1. The family members were asleep. The burglar broke in.
 _____ while

2. It was recess when the fire alarm sounded.
 _____ during

3. Don't clear the table until Anson has had his meal.
 _____ after

4. The lacquer goes on after the paint has dried.
 Before _____

- *5. Some people, unlike others, can multi-task.
 While _____

6. Can you get me some oranges when you are at the supermarket?
 While _____

7. Jen's grandfather fell ill at the time she was on vacation in Europe
 During _____

8. Comb your hair and tie it up.
 _____ after

9. Father drops me off at school every morning. He goes to work after that.
 Before _____

- *10. The bears decided to let their porridge cool then eat it.
 _____ after
