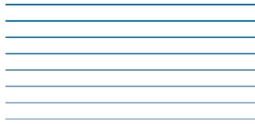


UNIT  
3.10

# Time Markers



Words such as ‘during’ and ‘since’ are often used to explain the timing of events. But the application of some of these words is restricted to particular tenses. This unit explains and practises their use.

## 1 How time markers are used

### ■ Study the following:

She went on a training course **for** six weeks.

(with numbers, without start date)

The report must be finished **by** 12 June.

(on or before)

He has been president **since** 2007.

(with present perfect, must specify start date)

They are studying in Bristol **until** March.

(end of a period)

The library was opened two years **ago**.

(usually with past)

The hotel is closed **during** the winter.

(with noun)

**Before** writing, he studied over 100 sources.

(often followed by -ing form; *also* **after**)

He applied in May and was accepted two months **later**.

(often used with numbers; *also* **earlier**)

## 2 Tenses

- Compare the tenses used with the following time markers:

<b>Last year</b> there <b>was</b> an election in Spain.	(past – finished event)
<b>In the last year</b> there <b>has been</b> a decline in inflation.	(present perfect – unfinished)
<b>Recently</b> , there <b>has been</b> a sharp rise in Internet use.	(present perfect – unfinished)
<b>Currently</b> , there <b>is</b> widespread concern about plagiarism.	(present – focus on now)

## 3 Practice A

- Choose the best alternative in each case.
  - Currently/recently she has been researching the life cycle of a Brazilian wasp.
  - He worked there until/during he retired.
  - Dr Hoffman has lived in Melbourne since/for 16 years.
  - Last month/in the last month a new book was published on genetics.
  - Applications must be received by/on November 25th.
  - Since/during her arrival last May she has reorganised the department.
  - During/for the winter most farmers in the region find work in the towns.

## 4 Practice B

- Study the schedule for Professor Wang's recent trip and complete the sentences opposite with a suitable word. It is now 16 April.

<b>12 March</b>	Fly London – Barcelona
<b>13–14 March</b>	Conference in Barcelona
<b>15 March</b>	Train Barcelona – Paris
<b>16 March</b>	Lecture visit to Sorbonne
<b>17 March</b>	Fly Paris – Shanghai
<b>18–19 March</b>	Meeting with colleagues
<b>20 March</b>	Fly Shanghai – London

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_ month Professor Wang made a lengthy trip.  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_ her trip she visited three countries.  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March she had travelled 11,000 kilometres.  
(d) She was away from home \_\_\_\_\_ nine days altogether.  
(e) A month \_\_\_\_\_ she was in Paris.  
(f) Two days \_\_\_\_\_ she was in Shanghai.  
(g) She stayed in Shanghai \_\_\_\_\_ 20 March.  
(h) \_\_\_\_\_ she is writing a report on her trip.

## 5 Practice C

- Complete each gap in the following text with a suitable word.

### Eating Out

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ the last few decades there has been a significant change in eating habits in the UK. (b) \_\_\_\_\_ the early 1980s eating out in restaurants and cafes has increased steadily. There are several reasons for this trend.

50 years (c) \_\_\_\_\_ most women were housewives, and cooked for their families every day. But (d) \_\_\_\_\_, with more women working outside the home, less time has been available for food preparation. (e) \_\_\_\_\_, 71 per cent of women aged 20–45 are at work, and (f) \_\_\_\_\_ 2020 it is estimated that this will rise to 85 per cent.

Another factor is the growth in disposable income, which has risen significantly (g) \_\_\_\_\_ the late 1970s. With more money in their pockets people are more likely to save the trouble of shopping and cooking by visiting their local restaurant.

## 6 Practice D

- Study the details of Napoleon's life, and write a short biography.

1769	Born in Corsica
1784	Entered military school in Paris
1789	French revolution started
1793	Promoted to brigadier general
1796	Appointed to command army of Italy; married Josephine
1799	Returned from Egypt and became First Consul of France
1807	France controlled most of continental Europe
1810	Divorced Josephine and married Marie-Louise, daughter of Austrian emperor
1812	Forced to retreat from Russia
1814	Exiled to island of Elba
1814	Defeated at battle of Waterloo and exiled to island of St Helena
1821	Died in exile

Napoleon

*Napoleon entered military school at the age of 15, ...*

