

Book: Interchange 3

Level: 9<sup>th</sup>

Unit: 10

Objective: Referring to time in the past.

## Referring to Time in the Past

<b>DURING</b>	→ a year	= That song was popular <u>during</u> 1986.
	→ a decade	= My parents lived in Europe <u>during</u> the 1960s.
	→ a period	= He was unemployed <u>during</u> the recession.
	→ a century	= That vaccine was developed <u>during</u> the 18 <sup>th</sup> century.

→ Describes an action that occurred throughout a period of time.

→ **During** is a preposition that should be followed by either a noun or a pronoun to say when something happens. It does not tell us how long it happened. For Example:

During my vacation, I witnessed a lot of amazing events.

We can discuss this topic during the dinner.

Nobody spoke during the presentation.

We get plenty of snow here during the winter.

<b>FOR</b>	→ time	= I had to wait <u>for</u> two hours.
	→ months	= They lived in London <u>for</u> six months.
	→ years	= He was president <u>for</u> eight years.
	→ centuries	= The war lasted <u>for</u> over a century.

→ Used to describe duration of an action.

→ **For** is a preposition which must be followed directly by a or an or by a number plus a time noun (year, month, week etc.). For Example:

I haven't seen you for a long time.

My father has been in Paris for six days.

We were on a vacation for a week.

I lived in San Francisco for ten years.

<b>IN</b>	→	a month	=	They moved away <b>in</b> December.
	→	a month + year	=	I graduated <b>in</b> July, 2005.
	→	a year	=	I was born <b>in</b> 1995.
	→	a decade	=	Disco was popular <b>in</b> the 70s.
	→	a century	=	World War II occurred <b>in</b> the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.

→ Describes a specific moment in time.

<b>AGO</b>	→	time	=	They closed an hour <b>ago</b> .
	→	a number of months	=	She quit her job a month <b>ago</b> .
	→	a number of years	=	I moved here ten years <b>ago</b> .

→ Used to express an amount of time in the past.

<b>SINCE</b>	→	a moment in time	=	I have felt sick <b>since</b> I ate that fish.
	→	a month	=	He has been the president <b>since</b> April.
	→	a year	=	I have worked here <b>since</b> 2009.

→ Describes when the action started.

<b>FROM ... TO...</b>	→	time	=	They worked last Saturday <b>from</b> 8 <b>to</b> 3.
	→	months	=	School vacations go <b>from</b> December <b>to</b> February.
	→	years	=	World War I lasted <b>from</b> 1914 <b>to</b> 1918.

→ Used to describe when the action began and when it ended.

**Note:** It is not correct to say "Since three years ago". You must say "Since 2012", or "Three years ago", or "For the last three years".