# 57 I can describe the past, present, and future

## A Thinking about time 👀

- Time flies when you get older.
- I get depressed from time to time.
- I will go to university in due course.
- It's about time I started a pension.
- At one time I wanted to be a journalist.
- · I do everything at the last minute.
- In retrospect, I wish I'd gone to university.

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- For the time being I'm happy where I am.
- My parents are a bit behind the times.
- I've become more tolerant over time.
- Elvis Presley was a bit before my time.
- With hindsight I should've worked harder.

Glossary			
time flies from time to time in due course	time seems to pass very quickly. sometimes but not regularly. SYN <b>now and again</b> . at the right time and not before.	in retrospect	often with a different view from the one you had then. SYN looking back.
it's about time	used to say that sth should happen soon or should have	for the time being	
	happened already (notice the past tense). syn <b>it's high time</b> .	behind the times over time	old-fashioned in ideas, ways, engradually.
at one time do sth at the last	in the past but not now. do sth at the latest possible time	before your time	before you were born or before you can remember.
minute	before sth else happens. SYN leave sth to/till the last minute.	with hindsight	with the ability to understand a situation only after it has happened (with the benefit of hindsight).
1 Find nine tin	ne phrases in the hox		180

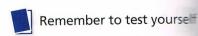
Find nine time phrases in the box.

at the la	st over	in with	behind	at retr	rospect fro	m time	for th	ne time
in due	the times	minute	one time	course	hindsight	time	being	to time

2 Complete the sentences.

1	In, I don't think I made the most of my time at university.
2	With the benefit of it was probably a mistake for me to leave my last job.
3	The trouble with Angel is that heeverything to the last
4	Listen, it'stime you started taking these exams seriously.
	My mum used to love punk music, but it's a bit my
6	The time has since I've been in Greece. I've loved every minute of it.
7	The university says they'll give us the date of the exams in due
8	one time I wanted to be a professional footballer. I think I'm a bit old for that now.
9	Your English won't improve immediately; it happenstime.
10	This dictionary will be fine the time

3 ABOUT YOU Read the statements at the top again. Are they true for you? If not, write answers that are true for you using the phrases in bold, or talk to another student.



## B Time words which are similar in meaning 6

Word	Example	Meaning
during throughout	It rained <b>during</b> the day. It rained <b>throughout</b> the day.	at a point within a period of time. continuously within a period of time.
age era	We're living in the nuclear <b>age</b> . When Mandela was released, it was the beginning of a <b>new era</b> .	a particular period of history. a period of time with a particular quality or character.
extend sth prolong sth	They're going to <b>extend</b> my visa. The drugs will <b>prolong</b> her life.	increase the length of time of sth. make sth last longer. OPP <b>curtail</b> FML.
gap break	Buses run at regular <b>intervals</b> . There's a fifteen-minute <b>interval</b> . We met again after a ten-year <b>gap</b> . I get a <b>coffee break</b> and <b>lunch break</b> at work.	a period of time between two events or two parts of sth, e.g. a play. a period of time when sth stops. a short period of time when you stop what you are doing and rest.
spell stage phase	I did a <b>spell of</b> work there. I stopped for water at one <b>stage</b> . It's just a <b>phase</b> that most teenagers go through. It's an early <b>stage/phase</b> of the project.	a short period of time or of a particular activity. a period that forms part of an activity. a difficult period of time that sb/sth passes through ( <b>stage</b> is also possible). a period of time that forms part of a process or the development of sth.
pass elapse go by	Two years <b>passed / elapsed / went by</b> before I saw her again. Time <b>passed / went by</b> slowly.	all the verbs describe the process of time; <b>elapse</b> is FML; <b>pass</b> and <b>go by</b> are often used with an adverb to describe how time happens.
soon or shortly	He <b>soon</b> realized it was a mistake. I'll be with you <b>soon/shortly</b> . I left <b>soon/shortly</b> after Dina. He left <b>shortly</b> before midnight.	quickly (after sth happens). in a short period of time from now. a short period after sb/sth. a short period before sb/sth.

### 4 Circle the correct word(s). Both words may be correct.

- 1 There's bound to be a gap / an interval during the concert.
- 2 We're off soon / shortly but I'll give you a ring tomorrow.
- 3 Several days went by / elapsed before the solicitor rang me again.
- 4 She had a short spell / stage working for an oil company.
- 5 I woke up twice during / throughout the night.
- 6 She's reached a critical stage / phase in her career.
- 7 The late 70s was the height of the 'punk music' age / era.
- 8 I'm afraid we will have to curtail / prolong the meeting until 9.00.

#### Complete the text with suitable time words.

I went to university in 1995, and	I I worked incredibly hard (1)	the time I v	vas there.
I decided I needed a (2)	after that, so I travelled	round Europe, spending	nine months
in France. (3) the	time I was there, I had a short		
(4) of work teachi	ng English. It was the most in	teresting (5)	of my life.
When I came back, I decided tha	at as we were living in the con	nputer (6)	, I'd get a job
in IT. It was a terrible mistake. I (	7)realized I did	n't want to sit at a comp	uter all day,
and although the company offer	red to (8) my co	ontract, I decided to quit.	So, after a
three-year (9), I re	etrained as a teacher, and cam	ne to work in Finland. Aln	nost five years
have (10) since I m	nade that decision.		