

12. We won't leave ____ the rain stops.
a) by
b) before
c) until
d) after
13. You should wash your hands ____ eating.
a) before
b) by
c) since
d) until
14. Can you send me the file ____ tomorrow morning?
a) until
b) by
c) after
d) within
15. The accident happened a few minutes ____.
a) before
b) since
c) ago
d) past
16. The road is closed ____ Monday ____ Thursday for repairs.
a) since / by
b) by / after
c) after / before
d) from / until
17. You must check in ____ 30 minutes of arrival.
a) within
b) by
c) in
d) for
18. Let's have coffee ____ the meeting.
a) by
b) after
c) until
d) ago
19. I won't be home ____ late tonight.
a) by
b) before
c) until
d) after
20. The homework is due ____ Wednesday at the latest.
a) until
b) after
c) before
d) by



Answers

1. b) by
2. c) until
3. a) before
4. d) after
5. b) ago
6. a) from / to
7. d) within
8. a) until
9. c) by
10. d) after
11. b) ago
12. c) until
13. a) before
14. b) by
15. c) ago
16. d) from / until
17. a) within
18. b) after
19. c) until
20. d) by



Explanations

1. “by” (b)

'By Friday' means 'no later than Friday'. Use 'by' for deadlines — the action must be completed at or before that time.

2. “until” (c)

'Until 9 p.m.' means the shop continues to be open up to 9 p.m. Use 'until' (or 'till') for a situation that continues up to a point in time.

3. “before” (a)

'Before the meeting starts' means earlier than that time. 'Before' indicates something happens at an earlier time.

4. “after” (d)

'After dinner' means following dinner. The context 'to help digest' confirms the walk happened after eating.

5. “ago” (b)

'Ago' means 'back from now'. It is used with past simple: three years ago, two days ago, a long time ago.

6. “from / to” (a)

'From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.' describes a time range. Use 'from...to' (or 'from...until') to show start and end times.

7. “within” (d)

'Within 48 hours' means 'in no more than 48 hours'. 'Within' sets a time limit for when something must happen.

8. “until” (a)

'Until you come back' means I'll continue waiting up to the moment you return. 'Until' shows a situation continuing to a point.

9. “by” (c)

'By the end of March' means 'no later than the end of March'. 'By' sets a deadline for completion.

10. “after” (d)

'After breakfast' means following the meal. The context 'once I've finished eating' confirms the action happens after breakfast.

11. “ago” (b)

'Five months ago' means five months back from now. 'Ago' is always used with the past simple tense.

12. “until” (c)

'Until the rain stops' means we'll stay here and leave only when the rain stops. 'Until' shows waiting for a point in time.

13. “before” (a)

'Before eating' means earlier than eating. It indicates the correct sequence: first wash hands, then eat.

14. “by” (b)

'By tomorrow morning' means 'no later than tomorrow morning'. Use 'by' to set a deadline.

15. “ago” (c)

'A few minutes ago' means a few minutes back from now. 'Ago' always refers back from the present moment.

16. “from / until” (d)

'From Monday until Thursday' describes a time range with a clear start and end. 'From...until' (or 'from...to') is used for time ranges.

17. “within” (a)

'Within 30 minutes of arrival' means 'no more than 30 minutes after arrival'. 'Within' sets a strict time limit.

18. “after” (b)

'After the meeting' means following the meeting. It shows the planned sequence of events.

19. “until” (c)

'Until late tonight' means 'I'll be away and will only come home late'. 'Until' indicates the situation continues up to that point.

20. “by” (d)

'By Wednesday at the latest' sets a firm deadline. 'By' means 'no later than' — the homework must be handed in on or before Wednesday.