Until and By

- Both “by” and “until” are prepositions.
- The word “until” can be either a conjunction or a preposition.
- It is not possible to use “by” as a conjunction.

By

Use “by” to mean “not after” or “not later than”.

1. She said she would be back by five o'clock. She said she would not return past five o’clock.
2. You must complete the application by Friday. You must complete the application before Friday.
3. By the time I got to the station, the train had already left. Before I got to the station, the train left.
4. We got there by seven. We did not get there after seven.
5. By the time we got to the bookstore, it was closed. The bookstore was closed before we got there.

Until

Use “until” to mean “not before” and “not after and not before”.

1. We were up until three o'clock AM. We did not stay awake past three o’clock AM. We did not go to sleep before three o’clock.
2. We’d better wait until next week and then decide. We’d better not decide before next week starts.
3. We did not get there until seven. We did not get there before seven. We got there at seven.
4. We stayed until six, and then we left. We did not stay after six. We did not leave before six.

Until Conjunction

1. We waited inside until the rain stopped. The rain stopped, and then we went outside.
2. We walked until we got to the park, and then we sat on a bench. We stopped walking when we got to the park.

Write more sentences with until and by.

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