

Prepositions of time

We use

at with clock times.

*I'll see you **at 4.15**. The plane leaves **at six**. Call me **at lunch time**.*

on with days, dates and expressions like Monday morning and Friday afternoon.

*I'll be at home **on Tuesday**. We get up late **on Sundays**. The meeting's **on June 23rd**. I had to work **on Christmas Day**.*

But we say What time?

What time is the film?

We use

in with weeks, seasons, months, years and centuries.

*My birthday's **in March**. Shakespeare died **in 1616**. I always get unhappy **in the winter**.*

!! We say in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening, but at night. !!

*She was born at 6.16 **in the morning**. I work best **in the evening**. This street is very quiet **at night**.*

!! We say at the weekend, at Christmas, at Easter. !!

*What are you doing **at the weekend**? Did you go away **at Christmas**?*

!! We don't use prepositions before common expressions with **this, next, last** and **every**.

*What are you doing **this afternoon**? Bill was here **last Sunday**. See you **next week**. We go on holiday to the same place **every year**.*

To say **how long** it takes to finish something, we use **in**.

*They built house **in three months**. Your soup will be ready **in ten minutes**.*

Practice

Put in in, at or on.

1. We all went to Wales the weekend.
2. I usually go skiing February.
3. She finished school 1996.
4. My mother usually comes to stay Christmas.
5. I don't like driving night.
6. Our garden looks wonderful the spring.
7. I always stop work 5.00 the afternoon.
8. I'll finish university June.
9. I last saw her 1998.
10. Carola was born 8.25 the evening Thursday 17th April 2000.
11. I'm never hungry early the morning.
12. It gets very hot here the summer.

Put the time expressions into the correct column.

at	on	in	no preposition

Friday	the weekend	the end of the month
the morning	this morning	May 10th
8 o'clock	the eighties	20 minutes
last summer	lunchtime	last week
the moment	Thursday morning	midnight
a moment	the winter	Christmas Day
my birthday	next week	eight months
tomorrow	today	Easter
June	night	three days
Christmas	1991	yesterday

Check your answers. How many did you get correct? **Total /30**

Now complete the rules.

Use _____ for specific days and dates.

Use _____ for times of the day and festivals.

Use _____ for parts of the day, months, years, seasons, and decades.

Exceptions: _____ night/ the weekend

Test a partner.

- A *the morning*
B *'in'*