

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup>**. 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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'*