

#### Table Of Contents:

- Common prepositions of time
- Preposition 'ON'
- Preposition 'AT'
- Preposition 'IN'
- Prepositions 'PAST' and 'TO'
- Prepositions 'FROM...UNTIL' and 'BETWEEN...AND...'
- Preposition 'UNTIL' / 'TIL'
- Prepositions 'SINCE' and 'FOR'
- Preposition 'DURING'
- Prepositions 'BEFORE' and 'AFTER'
- No preposition

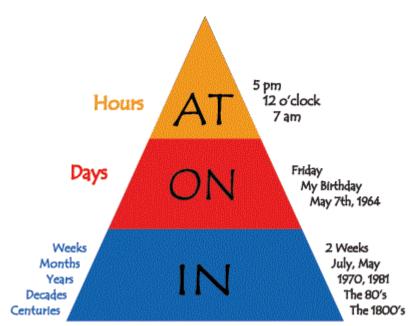
**Prepositions of time** tell us *when* something happens, and for *how long*. They are usually used with clock times, mealtimes, parts of the day, months, years, and other durations:

- I'll see you at 8 o'clock.
- My brother gets up late **on** Sundays.
- Shakespeare died in 1616.

# Common prepositions of time

The most common prepositions to talk about time are 'in', 'on', and 'at'.





via http://hidupgrammar.weebly.com/prepositions-of-time

### Preposition 'ON'

We use the preposition **on** to talk about days, parts of the day, dates and special days:

- days: **on** Monday, **on** my birthday, **on** Christmas Day
- days + morning / afternoon / evening / night: **on** Tuesday morning
- dates: on the 15th of June
  - Shall we go shopping **on Sunday** afternoon?
  - I usually go out on Saturday.
  - The festival will take place on the 15th of August.
  - We always have a huge celebration on New Year's Eve.

## Preposition 'AT'

We use the preposition *at* to talk about a point in time (clock time or mealtime):

- times: at 8pm, at midnight, at 6:30
- holiday periods: at Christmas, at Easter
- at night
- at the weekend
- at lunchtime, at dinnertime, at breakfast time



- My alarm clock buzzed at 8.00am.
- David and Stephanie will see us tomorrow morning at breakfast.
- My favorite TV program starts at six thirty.

Note: The preposition *at* is also used in the following expressions: *at night, at the weekend, at the moment, at Christmas, at Easter*.

### Preposition 'IN'

We use the preposition *in* to talk about parts of the day, months, seasons and years (meaning 'during' them):

- years: **in** 1992, **in** 2006
- months: in December, in June
- decades: **in** the sixties, **in** the 1790s
- centuries: in the 19th century
- seasons: in winter, in summer
- in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening
  - Yesterday Peter woke up early in the morning.
  - I graduated from the University in 2003.
  - Have you been to Los Angeles in autumn?

**In** can also mean after some time:

- I'll call you back in an hour.
- Jeremy hopes to finish his new painting **in a week**.

### Prepositions 'PAST' and 'TO'

We usually use the prepositions *past* and *to* to <u>tell the time</u>:

- It's half **past** four. (4:30 'past' means 'after')
- It's twenty **to** nine. (8:40 'to' means 'before')

## Prepositions 'FROM...UNTIL' and 'BETWEEN...AND...'

We use prepositions '*from...until...*' and '*between...and...*' to say when an action starts and when it finishes:



- The shop is normally open **from** 8am **until** 6pm.
- The train is late, it's supposed to arrive **between** 4pm **and** 6pm.

### Preposition 'UNTIL' / 'TIL'

We use the prepositions *until* or *til* o say when the ongoing action finishes (meaning 'up to the time'):

- Michael has to stay at work **until** six o'clock.
- We will live together **until** next year.

### Prepositions 'SINCE' and 'FOR'

We use the preposition *since* to say when an ongoing action started:

- I've been studying German **since** last year.
- Kate's been playing with her daughter **since** 11am.

We use the preposition *for* to say how long the action has been happening:

- John has been practicing yoga for 10 years.
- I've been working **for** 9 hours already.

## Preposition 'DURING'

We use the preposition *during* to say something happened in a period of time:

- I met Jane during the summer.
- She stayed at a hostel **during** her trip.

# Prepositions 'BEFORE' and 'AFTER'

We use the prepositions **before** and **after** to show a sequence of actions:

- I will finish my work **before** 5 o'clock. (earlier)
- I will do the dishes **after** dinner. (later)



# No preposition

Sometimes we don't need prepositions when talking about time. No prepositions are used with the words 'last, 'next', 'this', 'every', etc.:

- next week, year, month, etc.
- last night, year, etc.
- this morning, month, etc.
- every day, night, year, etc.
- today, tomorrow, yesterday.
  - He promised to come tomorrow.
  - I'll see you next week.

Here's an interesting video from mmmEnglish explaining common mistakes of using the prepositions of time:

Read more about prepositions:

**Prepositions: Overview** 

**Prepositions of Movement** 

**Prepositions of Place**