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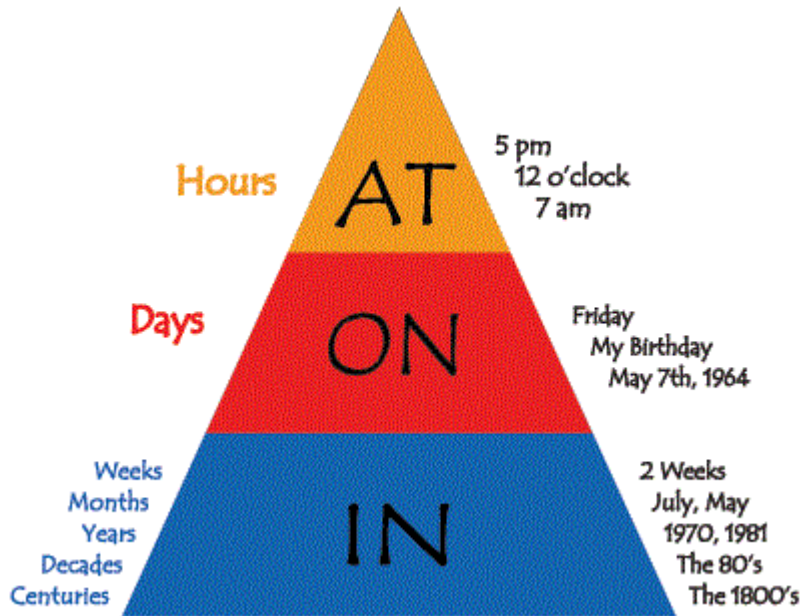
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Prepositions of time tell us *when* something happens, and for *how long*. They are usually used with clock times, mealtimes, parts of the day, months, years, and other durations:

- *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 [tell the time](#):

- *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** to 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](#)