Prepositions of Time

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**Quick and Handy Grammar Review**

**INTRODUCTION TO PREPOSITIONS**

Prepositions are short words that show *time, place, direction*, etc. Some examples of prepositions are *at, on, in, to, from, above, under, of,* and *between*.

**A. Common Prepositions of Time**

Let's learn about these common prepositions of *time*: *at, in,* and *on*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At</th>
<th>Pattern</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Clock Time** | at + clock time | • The meeting starts at 9:00.  
• Come to my house at 7:30 pm. |
|   | at + noon | • We eat lunch at noon. |
|   | at + midnight | • I am usually asleep at midnight. |
| **Other Times** | at + night | • We watch TV at night. |
|   | at + dinnertime / lunchtime | • Take off your hat at dinnertime.  
• She wants pizza at lunchtime. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On</th>
<th>Pattern</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Days** | on + day | • We have free time on Monday.  
• I play baseball on Thursdays.  
• They unwrap presents on Christmas Day.  
• My son always eats chocolate cake on his birthday. |
|   | on + the weekend / weekends | • He has hockey practice on the weekend.  
• I study English on (the) weekends. |
| **Dates** | on + date | • She has class on September 10.  
• I am going to a party on the first of July.  
• He has a doctor's appointment on Monday, December 2.  
• They got a new car on January 10, 2014. |
A. Common Prepositions of Time cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of Day</th>
<th>In + the morning</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I take a shower in the morning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in + the afternoon</td>
<td>You have English class in the afternoon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in + the evening</td>
<td>We study in the evening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Months and Years</td>
<td>in + month</td>
<td>My birthday is in June.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>She went to Europe in 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in + year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasons</td>
<td>in + season</td>
<td>We go camping in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>They like to ski in the wintertime.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Saying the Date

We use ordinal numbers to say the date.

Example:
My birthday is on February 12.

- Write February 12 or February 12th.
- Say February twelfth.

| Ordinal Numbers | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
Exercise 1

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the sentences with at, on, or in.

1. The class begins _____ 8:30 am.
2. The next school year starts _____ September.
3. I took swimming lessons _____ April 2015.
4. She plays volleyball _____ Saturdays.
5. _____ December 31, my family celebrated New Year’s Eve.
6. His birthday is _____ Monday, June 8.
7. _____ the winter, we go ice-skating.
8. They watch TV _____ night.
9. _____ 2010, my city held a big festival.
10. My wife drinks coffee _____ the morning.
11. We eat lunch _____ 12:15 pm.
12. I like to go to the beach _____ July.
13. They are getting married _____ Saturday, May 26, 2018.
14. My brother has his first karate class _____ Wednesday.
15. They like to read _____ the afternoon.
16. Flowers bloom _____ the spring.
17. The concert tickets go on sale tomorrow. _____ that day, people will line up for hours.
18. My kids thought they heard Santa Claus _____ Christmas Eve _____ midnight.
19. The meeting starts _____ Monday _____ 9:00 am.
20. Call me _____ 5:00 _____ Thursday.
Exercise 2

COMPLETE THE DIALOGUES

Complete the dialogues with at, on, or in.

1. A: What are you doing ______ the weekend?
   B: I’m buying a present for my sister.
   A: When is her birthday?
   B: Her birthday is ______ Monday.

2. A: What do you usually do ______ the evening?
   B: I watch TV.
   A: What do you watch?
   B: I watch a cooking show. It starts ______ 7:00 pm.

3. A: What does your family do ______ the summertime?
   B: We go to our cabin ______ the summer.
   A: When do you usually go there?
   B: We usually go ______ August.

4. A: Can you come to my house tomorrow?
   B: No, I can’t. I have a dentist appointment ______ 2:30.
   A: But tomorrow is Sunday!
   B: Oh, you’re right! My appointment is ______ Monday. I’ll come over ______ Sunday!

5. A: What are you doing ______ Saturday?
   B: I’m playing hockey ______ noon.
   A: Can you go to a movie after your game? It starts ______ 8:00.
   B: Sounds like a plan! See you ______ 8.
Exercise 3

WRITE SENTENCES

Write sentences by adding *at, on, or in* in the right spot.

1. We / eat / sandwiches / lunchtime
   
   *We eat sandwiches at lunchtime.*

2. They / do / their homework / 6:30 pm

3. I / am getting / a new car / my birthday

4. My friends / go / to the movies / the weekends

5. My sister / wakes up / 7:00 am

6. Monday, July 4 / we / are having / a party

7. She / has / a doctor’s appointment / September 2

8. Halloween / is / October

9. We / got / a dog / 2012

10. The tulip festival / is / April
## Exercise 4

### CLASS SURVEY

Ask your classmates these questions. Write their answers in the box. Try to talk to a different classmate for each question. Practice using *at*, *on*, and *in* in your answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Classmate’s Name</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>What time does this class start?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>What time does this class end?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>What do you usually do at 6:00 pm?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>What do you usually do on the weekend?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>When is your birthday?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>When is your favorite holiday?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>What do you usually do on Christmas Day?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>What time do you usually wake up?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>What time do you usually go to bed?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>What do you like to do in the summer?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Exercise 5

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUIZ

Choose the best preposition for each sentence.

1. I clean my apartment _____ Sundays.
   a) at
   b) on
   c) in

2. We go fishing _____ the spring.
   a) at
   b) on
   c) in

3. They like to travel _____ September.
   a) at
   b) on
   c) in

4. He is meeting me _____ Thursday, January 15.
   a) at
   b) on
   c) in

5. Do you study _____ the evening?
   a) at
   b) on
   c) in

6. I have a piano lesson _____ Tuesday.
   a) at
   b) on
   c) in

7. The hotel will open _____ July 2018.
   a) at
   b) on
   c) in

8. I like watching movies _____ night.
   a) at
   b) on
   c) in

9. I always wake up _____ midnight.
   a) at
   b) on
   c) in

10. She has a doctor's appointment _____ November 18.
    a) at
    b) on
    c) in

11. I rake the leaves in my yard _____ the fall.
    a) at
    b) on
    c) in

12. The party is _____ Saturday, December 10, 2016.
    a) at
    b) on
    c) in
## Answer Key

### Exercise 1

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>at</td>
<td>6.</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>7.</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>8.</td>
<td>at</td>
<td>13.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>9.</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>14.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>On</td>
<td>10.</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>15.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Exercise 2

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>on, on</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>in, at</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>in, in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Exercise 3

1. We eat sandwiches at lunchtime.
2. They do their homework at 6:30 pm.
3. I am getting a new car on my birthday.
4. My friends go to the movies on the weekends.
5. My sister wakes up at 7:00 am.
6. On Monday, July 4, we are having a party.
7. She has a doctor’s appointment on September 2.
8. Halloween is in October.
9. We got a dog in 2012.
10. The tulip festival is in April.

### Exercise 4

Answers will vary. Monitor students for correct preposition use.

### Exercise 5

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>4.</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPELLING NOTE:**

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words Favorite and Practice. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: Favourite and Practise (when used as a verb; Practice when used as a noun). Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.

**EDITOR’S NOTES:**

1. American and Canadian English prefer on the weekend/on weekends, while British English prefers at the weekend/at weekends.
2. For more practice with prepositions of time, see our Functional English lessons on Asking for the Time (https://esllibrary.com/courses/92/lessons/1742) and Asking about Days and Dates (https://esllibrary.com/courses/92/lessons/1943)