

Prepositions of Time

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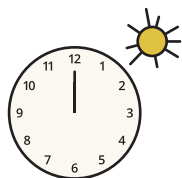
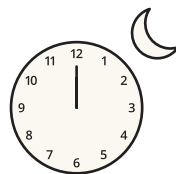
1 Grammar Notes

How do we express *time* in English?

We use the prepositions **at**, **on**, and **in**!

A. At

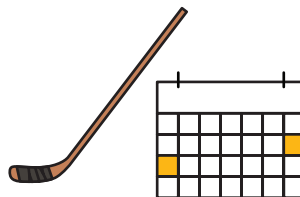
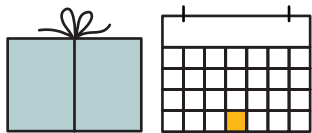
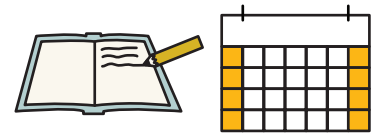
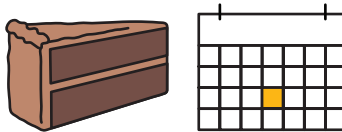
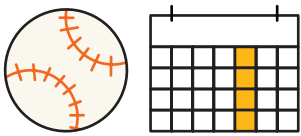
	Pattern	Example
Clock Time	at + clock time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School starts at 9:00. Come to my house at 7:30 pm.
	at + noon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We eat lunch at noon.
	at + midnight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am usually asleep at midnight.
Other Times	at + night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We watch TV at night.
	at + dinnertime / lunchtime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take off your hat at dinnertime. She wants pizza at lunchtime.



1 Grammar Notes cont.

B. On

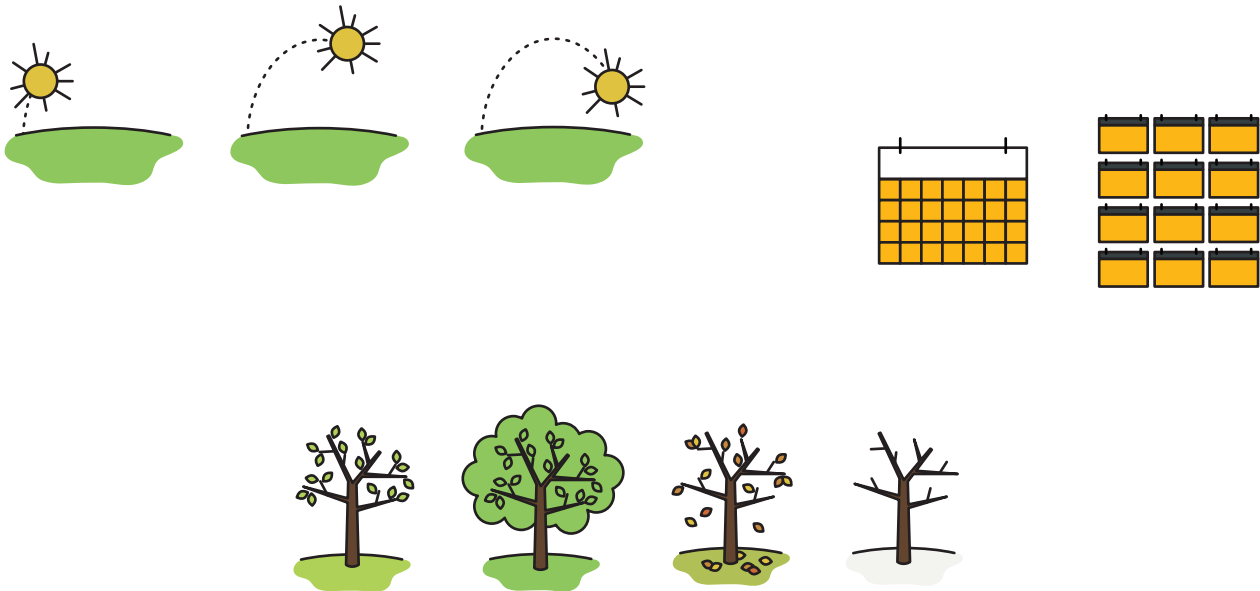
	Pattern	Example
Days	on + day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have free time on Monday. I play baseball on Thursdays. They unwrap presents on Christmas Day. I eat chocolate cake on my birthday.
	on + the weekend / weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He has hockey practice on the weekend. I study on (the) weekends.
Dates	on + date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 dog on January 10, 2014.



1 Grammar Notes cont.

C. In

	Pattern	Example
Time of Day	in + the morning	• I study in the morning.
	in + the afternoon	• They go to day care in the afternoon.
	in + the evening	• He plays video games in the evening.
Months & Years	in + month	• My birthday is in June.
	in + year	• She went to Disneyland in 2014.
Seasons	in + season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We go camping in the summer. • They like to ski in the wintertime.



1 Grammar Notes cont.

D. Take Note!

We use **ordinal numbers** to say the date.

My birthday is on *February 12*.

- Write *February 12* or *February 12th*.
- Say “*February twelfth*.”

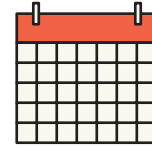
1	first	11	eleventh	21	twenty-first	31	thirty-first
2	second	12	twelfth	22	twenty-second		
3	third	13	thirteenth	23	twenty-third		
4	fourth	14	fourteenth	24	twenty-fourth		
5	fifth	15	fifteenth	25	twenty-fifth		
6	sixth	16	sixteenth	26	twenty-sixth		
7	seventh	17	seventeenth	27	twenty-seventh		
8	eighth	18	eighteenth	28	twenty-eighth		
9	ninth	19	nineteenth	29	twenty-ninth		
10	tenth	20	twentieth	30	thirtieth		

2 Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences with *at*, *on*, or *in*.

Ex The class begins at 8:30 am.

1 The next school year starts _____ September.



2 I took swimming lessons _____ April 2020.

3 She plays volleyball _____ Saturdays.

4 _____ December 31, my family had a New Year's Eve party.



5 His birthday is _____ Monday, June 8.

6 _____ the winter, we go ice-skating.



7 They watch TV _____ night.

8 _____ 2018, my city held a big festival.



9 My parents drink coffee _____ the morning.

10 We eat lunch _____ 12:15 pm.



11 I like to go to the beach _____ July.

12 They are getting married _____ Saturday, May 27, 2023.

13 My brother has his first karate class _____ Wednesday.

14 She thought she saw Santa Claus _____ Christmas Eve _____ midnight.

3 Complete the Dialogues

Complete the dialogues with *at*, *on*, or *in*.

Then practice reading the dialogues out loud with a partner.

1 **A:** What are you doing _____ the weekend?

B: I'm buying a present for my dad.

A: When is his birthday?

B: His birthday is _____ Monday.



2 **A:** What do you usually do _____ the evening?

B: I watch TV.

A: What do you usually watch?

B: My favorite show is about animals. 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!



4 Write Sentences

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

Ex We / eat / sandwiches / lunchtime

We eat sandwiches at lunchtime.

1 They / do / their / homework / 6:30 pm

2 I / am getting / a new bicycle / my birthday

3 My friends / go / to the movies / the weekends

4 My sister / wakes up / 7:00 am

5 Monday, July 4 / we / are having / a party

6 She / has / a doctor's appointment / April 2

7 Halloween / is / October



5 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.

#	Question	Classmate's Name	Answer
1	What time does school start?		
2	What time does school end?		
3	What do you usually do at 6:00 pm?		
4	What do you usually do on the weekend?		
5	When is your birthday?		
6	When is your favorite holiday?		
7	What do you usually do on Christmas Day?		
8	What time do you usually wake up?		
9	What time do you usually go to bed?		
10	What do you like to do in the summer?		

6 Quiz

Choose the best preposition for each sentence.

- Ex** I clean my room _____ Sundays.
 a) at
b) on
 c) in
- 1** We go fishing _____ the spring.
 a) at
 b) on
 c) in
- 2** They like to travel _____ September.
 a) at
 b) on
 c) in
- 3** He is meeting me _____ Thursday, January 15.
 a) at
 b) on
 c) in
- 4** Do you study _____ the evening?
 a) at
 b) on
 c) in
- 5** I have a piano lesson _____ Tuesday.
 a) at
 b) on
 c) in
- 6** The hotel will open _____ July 2024.
 a) at
 b) on
 c) in
- 7** I like watching movies _____ night.
 a) at
 b) on
 c) in
- 8** I always wake up _____ midnight.
 a) at
 b) on
 c) in
- 9** She has a doctor's appointment _____ November 18.
 a) at
 b) on
 c) in
- 10** My dad rakes the leaves _____ the fall.
 a) at
 b) on
 c) in
- 11** The party is _____ Saturday, December 9, 2023.
 a) at
 b) on
 c) in



A Answer Key

Lesson Description:

Students learn to use *at*, *in*, and *on* in common time expressions. This lesson includes grammar practice exercises, speaking activities, a writing task, and a quiz.

Level: Beg - Low Int

Time: 1-2 hours

Tags: preposition, prepositions, prepositions of time, time, clock, season, morning, afternoon, night, grammar, grammar lesson, fun grammar lesson, speaking, writing, quiz

2 Complete the Sentences

- | | | |
|-------|--------|------------|
| 1. in | 6. In | 11. in |
| 2. in | 7. at | 12. on |
| 3. on | 8. In | 13. on |
| 4. On | 9. in | 14. on, at |
| 5. on | 10. at | |

5 Class Survey

Answers will vary.
Monitor students for correct preposition use.

3 Complete the Dialogues

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. on, on | 3. in, in, in |
| 2. in, at | 4. at, on on |

6 Quiz

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 3. b | 5. b | 7. a | 9. b | 11. b |
| 2. c | 4. c | 6. c | 8. a | 10. c | |

(continued on the next page...)

4 Write Sentences

- They do their homework **at** 6:30 pm.
- I am getting a new bicycle **on** my birthday.
- My friends go to the movies **on** the weekends.
- My sister wakes up **at** 7:00 am.
- On** Monday, July 4, we are having a party.
- She has a doctor's appointment **on** April 2.
- Halloween is **in** October.

A Answer Key cont.

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 use *on the weekend* and *on weekends*, while British English uses *at the weekend* and *at weekends*.
2. For more practice with time, see our Word Bank lesson on Telling Time: <https://ellii.com/lessons/word-bank/2400-telling-time>