

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*.

At		
	Pattern	Example
Clock Time	at + clock time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting 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.

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. My son always eats chocolate cake on his birthday.
	on + the weekend / weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He has hockey practice on the weekend. I study English 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 car on January 10, 2014.

Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

A. Common Prepositions of Time cont.

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

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	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		

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*.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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!
- 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.

#	Question	Classmate's Name	Answer
1	What time does this class start?		
2	What time does this class 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?		

Exercise 5

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUIZ

Choose the best preposition for each sentence.

- I clean my apartment _____ Sundays.
a) at
 b) on
c) in
- We go fishing _____ the spring.
a) at
b) on
c) in
- They like to travel _____ September.
a) at
b) on
c) in
- He is meeting me _____ Thursday, January 15.
a) at
b) on
c) in
- Do you study _____ the evening?
a) at
b) on
c) in
- I have a piano lesson _____ Tuesday.
a) at
b) on
c) in
- The hotel will open _____ July 2018.
a) at
b) on
c) in
- I like watching movies _____ night.
a) at
b) on
c) in
- I always wake up _____ midnight.
a) at
b) on
c) in
- She has a doctor's appointment _____ November 18.
a) at
b) on
c) in
- I rake the leaves in my yard _____ the fall.
a) at
b) on
c) in
- The party is _____ Saturday, December 10, 2016.
a) at
b) on
c) in

Answer Key

Exercise 1

- | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|------------|
| 1. at | 6. on | 11. at | 16. in |
| 2. in | 7. In | 12. in | 17. On |
| 3. in | 8. at | 13. on | 18. on, at |
| 4. on | 9. In | 14. on | 19. on, at |
| 5. On | 10. in | 15. in | 20. at, on |

Exercise 2

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. on, on | 4. at, on, on |
| 2. in, at | 5. on, at, at, at |
| 3. in, in, in | |

Exercise 3

- We eat sandwiches **at** lunchtime.
- They do their homework **at** 6:30 pm.
- I am getting a new car **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** September 2.
- Halloween is **in** October.
- We got a dog **in** 2012.
- The tulip festival is **in** April.

Exercise 4

Answers will vary. Monitor students for correct preposition use.

Exercise 5

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. c | 5. c | 7. c | 9. a | 11. c |
| 2. c | 4. b | 6. b | 8. a | 10. b | 12. b |

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:

- American and Canadian English prefer *on the weekend/on weekends*, while British English prefers *at the weekend/at weekends*.
- For more practice with prepositions of time, see our Functional English lessons on Asking for the Time (<https://ellii.com/lessons/functional-english/1742-asking-for-the-time>) and Asking about Days and Dates (<https://ellii.com/lessons/functional-english/1943-asking-about-days-dates>)