

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

On						
	Pattern	Example				
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. 				

Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

A. Common Prepositions of Time cont.

In							
	Pattern Example						
	in + the morning	I take a shower in the morning.					
Time of Day	in + the afternoon	• You have English class in the afternoon.					
	in + the evening	• We study in the evening.					
Months	in + month	• My birthday is in June.					
and Years	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:

Ordinal Numbers

My birthday is on *February 12*.

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

1 11 first 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 25 fifteenth twenty-fifth 6 sixth 16 sixteenth 26 twenty-sixth 7 seventh 17 seventeenth 27 twenty-seventh ; 8 18 eighteenth 28 eighth twenty-eighth 9 19 29 ninth nineteenth twenty-ninth 10 20 30 tenth twentieth thirtieth



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.



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.



WRITE SENTENCES

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

- 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

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?		



MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUIZ

Choose the best preposition for each sentence.

1.	l clean my apartment Sundays.	7.	The hotel will open July 2018.
	a) at (b) on c) in		a) at b) on c) in
2.	We go fishing the spring.	8.	I like watching movies night.
	a) at b) on c) in		a) at b) on c) in
3.	They like to travel September.	9.	l always wake up midnight.
	a) at b) on c) in		a) at b) on c) in
4.	He is meeting me Thursday, January 15.	10.	She has a doctor's appointment November 18
	a) at b) on c) in		a) at b) on c) in
5.	Do you study the evening?	11.	I rake the leaves in my yard the fall.
	a) at b) on c) in		a) at b) on c) in
6.	l have a piano lesson Tuesday.	12.	The party is Saturday, December 10, 2016.
	a) at b) on c) in		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

- 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

1.	b	3.	С	5.	С	7.	С	9.	а	11.	С
2.	С	4.	b	6.	b	8.	а	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.
- 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)