

Learn about prepositions of time

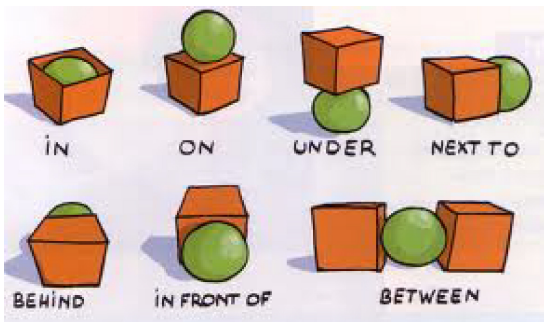
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Grammar is the strength of the English language. Its incorrect usage can kill the meaning of a sentence. Generally, people get confused between prepositions, such as “at, in, and on”. A preposition is one of the most important parts of speech. A preposition is a word that shows the relation between a word and a noun or a pronoun that comes after the preposition. Understanding prepositions are important for a [strong grammatical base](#).

There are three types of preposition, namely:

1. Preposition of place
2. Preposition of time
3. Preposition of movement

Let’s learn prepositions of time. Prepositions of time include at, on, in, by, till, until, up to, during, for, throughout and since.



Learning the prepositions - at, on, and in

We use “at” for a precise time, “in” for months, years, centuries and long periods and “on” for days and dates.

| At | In | On |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| At 3 o'clock | In September | On Tuesday |
| At sunrise | In Winter | On Sunday |

At noon

In the Summer

On 7 May

At bedtime

in 2000

On 12th September

At the moment

In the past/future

On the New Year's Eve

At 10.30am

in the next century

On Independence Day

At sunset

In the Ice Age

On my birthday

At dinner time

In 1992

On 31st July 1990

Examples

- I have a meeting **at** 5 PM
- The shop closes **at** 8 o'clock
- Shilpa went home **at** 7:30 PM
- In Mumbai, it often rains **in** June
- Do you think we will go to Jupiter **in** the future?
- There should be a lot of progress **in** the next century.
- Do you work **on** Sundays?
- His birthday is **on** 31 July.

- Where will you be **on** Valentine's Day?

Preposition of time '**at**' in the following regular expressions:

| Expression | Example |
|------------|---------|
|------------|---------|

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| At night | The stars shine at night . |
|----------|-----------------------------------|

| | |
|------------------|--|
| At the same time | We finished the test at the same time . |
|------------------|--|

| | |
|------------|--|
| At present | He's not home at present . Try later. |
|------------|--|

Preposition of time **in** and **on** in the following regular expressions:

| In | On |
|----|----|
|----|----|

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| In the morning | On a Monday morning |
|----------------|---------------------|

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| In the mornings | On Sunday mornings |
|-----------------|--------------------|

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| In the afternoon(s) | On Saturday afternoon(s) |
|---------------------|--------------------------|

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| In the evening(s) | On Friday evening(s) |
|-------------------|----------------------|

When you use '**last, next, every, this**' in your sentence, don't use **at, in, on**.

- I went to Delhi **last** (*not* in last June)
- He's coming back **next** (*not* on next Monday)
- I go home **every** (*not* at every Easter)
- We'll call you **this** (*not* in this evening)

The above-mentioned examples of prepositions will help you complete the sentence formation. Keep practicing these prepositions and [improve your communication skills](#) by using them appropriately. You can study them with the help of an [online English](#) guide that will help you improve and develop your English grammar skills.

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- By Shailja Varma

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