Understanding Prepositions of Time

As you may already know, prepositions of time are used to indicate when something happens. There are only three prepositions of time in English: “in,” “at,” and “on.” Each of these prepositions has specific scenarios in which they are used.

“In”

The preposition “in” is used to indicate a period of time within a larger time frame. It is used to talk about months, years, seasons, and longer periods of time. Here are some examples:

* “I will graduate from college in May.”
* “She was born in 2001.”
* “We always go on vacation in the summer.”
* “He has been living in this city for five years.”

“At”

The preposition “at” is used to indicate a specific point in time. It is used to talk about hours, holidays, and specific time frames. Here are some examples:

* “I have a meeting at 2 pm.”
* “We always have a big dinner at Christmas.”
* “The store closes at 10 pm.”
* “She will arrive at midnight.”

“On”

The preposition “on” is used to indicate a specific day or date. It is used to talk about days of the week, specific dates, and holidays. Here are some examples:

* “I have a doctor’s appointment on Monday.”
* “Our anniversary is on May 5th.”
* “We always celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November.”
* “He was born on Christmas Day.”

Basic Rules

When we talk about time in English, we use prepositions to indicate when something happens. The most common prepositions of time are in, at, and on. Here are some basic rules for using them correctly:

In

We use “in” to talk about longer periods of time, such as months, years, and seasons. For example:

* I was born in 1990.
* She always goes on vacation in the summer.
* We’re having a party in December.

Note that we use “in” with parts of the day, such as “in the morning” or “in the evening.”

At

We use “at” to talk about specific points in time, such as hours, days, and holidays. For example:

* I have a meeting at 2:00 pm.
* They’re coming over at Christmas.
* She always goes to bed at 10:00 pm.

Note that we use “at” with mealtimes, such as “at breakfast” or “at lunch.”

On

We use “on” to talk about specific days and dates. For example:

* My birthday is on July 4th.
* We’re going to the beach on Saturday.
* The concert is on the 23rd of August.

Note that we use “on” with days of the week, such as “on Monday” or “on Friday.” We also use “on” with holidays, such as “on Easter” or “on New Year’s Day.”

Remember that these are just the basic rules for using prepositions of time. There are many exceptions and special cases, so it’s always a good idea to check a grammar guide or ask a native speaker if you’re not sure.

Examples of Preposition of Time

There are three basic prepositions of time: at, in, on

Prepositions of Time: At

**‘At’ is used for precise times**

Here is the list of preposition with At:

* At 10.30am
* At 8 o’clock
* At bedtime
* At breakfast
* At Christmas
* At dawn
* At dinnertime
* At dusk
* At midday
* At night
* At noon
* At Southern
* At sunrise
* At sunset
* At ten o’clock
* At that time
* At the beginning
* At the end
* At the moment
* At the present
* At the same time
* At the weekend

Prepositions of Time: In

**‘In’ is used for months, years, decades, centuries, and long periods of time**

Here is the list of preposition with In:

* In 16 year’s time
* In 1991.
* In December
* In January
* In the 1970’s
* In the 21st century
* In the 70s
* In the afternoon
* In the Christmas holiday
* In the Dark Ages
* In the evening
* In the future
* In the morning
* In the past
* In the seventies
* In the Summer
* In this century

Prepositions of Time: On

**‘On’ is used for days and dates**

Here is the list of preposition with On:

* On a Summer evening
* On Christmas day
* On Christmas
* On Friday
* On holiday
* On January 3rd
* On my birthday
* On my wedding day
* On that day
* On the 10th
* On the 10th of January
* On the first day
* On the last day
* On Tuesday night
* On [Wednesday](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wednesday)
* On West day

Exercises for Practice

To reinforce your understanding of prepositions of time, it’s important to practice using them in context. Here are some exercises to help you do just that:

**Exercise 1**

Complete the following sentences using the correct preposition of time (in, on, at):

1. I usually have breakfast \_\_\_\_ 7:30 AM.
2. Our meeting is scheduled \_\_\_\_ Friday.
3. She was born \_\_\_\_ December 25th.
4. The concert starts \_\_\_\_ 8 PM.
5. We will be on vacation \_\_\_\_ the first week of August.

**Exercise 2**

Choose the correct preposition of time (in, on, at) to complete the following sentences:

1. I have an appointment \_\_\_\_ 3 PM.
2. She always goes to bed \_\_\_\_ midnight.
3. The movie starts \_\_\_\_ 7:30 PM.
4. We usually have lunch \_\_\_\_ noon.
5. They will arrive \_\_\_\_ the airport at 9 AM.

**Exercise 3**

Rewrite the following sentences using the correct preposition of time (in, on, at):

1. I will see you tomorrow in the morning.
2. The party is on Saturday night.
3. Our flight leaves in the afternoon.
4. She always goes to bed at midnight.
5. They arrived at the airport on 9 AM.

**Exercise 4**

Choose the correct preposition of time (before, after, until) to complete the following sentences:

1. Please submit your report \_\_\_\_ Friday.
2. We can’t leave \_\_\_\_ the rain stops.
3. The museum is open \_\_\_\_ 9 PM.
4. You need to finish your homework \_\_\_\_ you can watch TV.
5. The store is closed \_\_\_\_ Sundays.

By practicing these exercises, you’ll become more comfortable using prepositions of time correctly and effectively. Keep practicing and you’ll soon be a pro!