

Prepositions of Time

Learn a useful list of prepositions of time in English with example sentences, video and ESL printable worksheets.

What is a Preposition of Time?

A preposition of time is a preposition that allows you to discuss a specific time period.

Preposition of time examples:

- *On Monday*
- *On a cold day*
- *At night*
- *At the moment*
- *In January*
- *In the past*

List of Prepositions of Time with Examples

Learn prepositions of time lists with useful grammar rules and example sentences.

During

Used when something happens within the time something else is happening

Example:

We stayed at a student hostel during the conference.

For

We use **for** with a period of time.

Example:

*I'm just going to bed **for** two hours or so.*

Until/ Till

Until/ till means up to a certain time

Example:

*We'll wait **till/ until** half past six **for** you.*

Since

Refers back to a point in time when something began.

Example:

*The factory has been here **since** the 1970s.*

From...to

We use **from...to** to show when something starts and finishes.

Example:

*Her visit will extend **from** Monday **to** Thursday.*

Ago

We use **ago** to refer to how far back in time something happened

Example:

*He left the house over an hour **ago**.*

Before

We use **before** to refer to any time previous to a specific point in time

Example:

*She's always up **before** dawn.*

By

We use **by** when we want to say “*not later than*”.

Example:

*He had promised to be back **by** five o'clock.*

After

We use **after** when we want to say “*later in time than*”.

Example:

*I felt fairly relaxed **after** taking the medicine.*

To

We use **to** in telling the time, when we refer to the number of minutes before the hour.

Example:

*It's a quarter **to** two.*

We can use **to** with the meaning of “until” when we are talking about time.

Example:

*It's just three days **to** Halloween.*

Past

Refers to the amount of time past the hour

Example:

*It's five **past** ten.*

Between...and

We use **between ... and** to talk about time that separates two points.

Example:

*The team have a lot of work to do **between now and Sunday**.*

Within

Refers to a span of time during which something may occur.

Example:

*You should receive a reply **within** seven days.*

Prepositions of Time Image

PREPOSITIONS OF TIME

PREPOSITION	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLE
During	Used when something happens within the time something else is happening	We stayed at a student hostel during the conference.
For	Used with a period of time.	I'm just going to bed for two hours or so.
Until/Till	Up to a certain time	We'll wait till/until half past six for you.
Since	Refers back to a point in time when something began	Forty years have passed away since they met.
From...to	To show when something begins & ends.	Her visit will extend from Monday to Thursday.
Ago	Refers to how far back in time something happened	He left the house over an hour ago .
Before	Refers to any time previous to a specific point in time	She's always up before dawn.
By	Not later than	He had promised to be back by five o'clock.
After	Used when we want to say "later in time than".	I felt fairly relaxed after taking the medicine.
To	Telling the time, when referring to the number of minutes before the hour.	It's a quarter to two.
Past	Refers to the amount of time past the hour	It's five past ten.
Between...and	To talk about time that separates two points.	They lived in New York between 1998 and 2004.
Within	Refers to a span of time during which something may occur	You should receive a reply within seven days.

Prepositions of Time IN ON AT

In order to describe time, the prepositions **in**, **on**, and **at** go from **GENERAL** to **SPECIFIC**.

Prepositions of Time: IN

Native speakers use the preposition **IN** to refer to a general, longer period of time.

In + Parts of the day

Examples:

In the morning

In the afternoon

In the evening

In + Months

Examples:

In January

In February

In December

In + Seasons

Examples:

In (the) spring

In (the) summer

In (the) fall/autumn

In (the) winter

In + Years

Examples:

In 1980

In 1968

In + Decades

Examples:

In the 1960s

In the seventies

In + Centuries

Examples:

In the 15th century

In the 21st century

In + Weeks

Examples:

In a week

In 2 weeks

In + Periods of time

Examples:

In the past

In the next century

In the future

In the 10 years time

In the middle ages

In a few minutes

In a moment

In an hour

In 3 hours

In six months

In a year

In + Holidays

Example:

In the Easter holiday

Prepositions of Time: IN | Picture

PREPOSITIONS OF TIME



Parts of the day

In the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening.

Centuries

In the 15th century, in the 21st century...

Weeks

In a week, in two weeks...

Holidays

In the Easter holiday...

Periods of time

In the past, in the middle ages, in 3 hours...

IN

Months

In January, In May, In December...

Seasons

In spring, in summer, in autumn, in winter...

Years

In 1989, in 2000...

Decades

In the 1960s, in the 2010s...

Prepositions of Time: ON

Moving to more specific periods of time, the preposition ON is used.

On + Days

Examples:

On Monday

On Thursday

On Sunday

On + Dates

Examples:

On April 3rd

On 1st January 2013

On the 10th

On the first day

On the last day

On + Holidays with “day”

Examples:

On New Year's day

On Christmas day

On Easter day

On + Specific days

Examples:

On my birthday

On holiday

On my wedding day

On that day

On + Day + Part of day

Examples:

On Sunday morning(s)

On Friday afternoon(s)

On Monday evening(s)

On + Time

Examples:

On the weekend (U.S.)

On weekdays

On time

On a summer evening

On a cold day

On my lunch break

Prepositions of Time: ON | Picture

PREPOSITIONS OF TIME



Days

On Monday, on Thursday, on Sunday...

Holidays with "day"

On New Year's day, on Christmas day...

Day + part of day

On Sunday morning (s), on Friday afternoon (s)...

ON

Dates

On April 3rd, on the 8th, on the first day...

Specific day

On my birthday, on holiday, on that day...

Time

On the weekend, on time, on a cold day...

Prepositions of Time: AT

English speakers use the preposition AT for the most specific times.

At + Hours

Examples:

At 7 am

At 12 o'clock

At 5 pm

At + Parts of the day

Examples:

At night

At noon/ midday

At midnight

At bedtime

At lunch time

At dinner time

At dinner

At lunch

At sunrise/sunset

At dawn

At + Holidays without “day”

Examples:

At Easter

At Christmas

At New Year

At + Time

Examples:

At present

At the weekend (U.K)

At breakfast

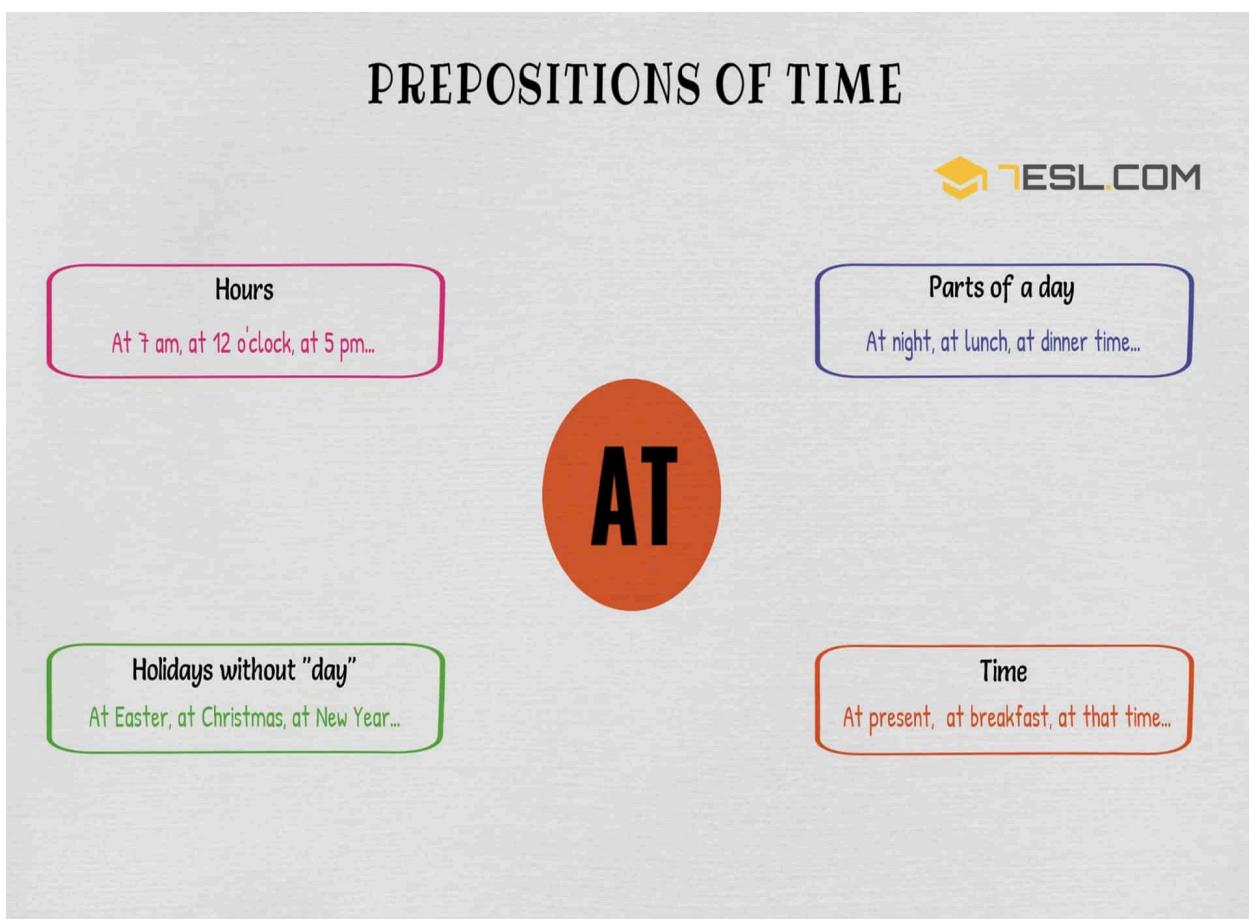
At the moment

At this moment

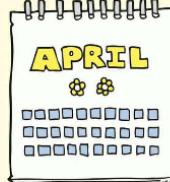
At the same time

At that time

Prepositions of Time: AT | Picture



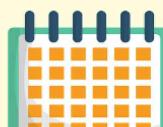
Prepositions of Time

IN	ON	AT
In The Morning 	On Monday 	At 8.30 am 
In The Afternoon 	On Wednesday 	At 12 O'clock 
In The Evening 	On Sunday 	At 6 pm 
In January 	On 24th January 2015 	At Noon/ Midday 
In April 	On April 15th 	At Midnight 
In The Morning 	On Sunday Morning(s) 	At Dawn 

Prepositions of Time

IN	ON	AT
In The Afternoon 	On Friday Afternoon(s) 	At Dusk 
In The Evening 	On Monday Evening(s) 	At Night 
In (the) Summer 	On a Summer Evening 	At Sunset 
In (the) Winter 	On a Cold Day 	At Bedtime 
In (the) Fall/ Autumn 	On My Birthday 	At Dinner Time 
In (the) Spring 	On My Wedding Day 	At Lunch Time 

Prepositions of Time

IN	ON	AT
In 3 Hours 	On My Lunch Break 	At Lunch 
In the Past 	On That Day 	At That Time 
In a Moment 	On Time 	At The Moment 
In a Few Minutes 	On the First Day 	At This Moment 
In the Future 	On the Last Day 	At Present 
In 2 Weeks 	On Weekdays 	At the Weekend (U.K) 

Prepositions of Time

IN	ON	AT
In a Week 	On the Weekend (U.S.) 	At the Weekend (U.K.) 
In the Easter Holiday 	On Easter Day 	At Easter 
In (the) Winter 	On Christmas Day 	At Christmas 
In a Year 	On New Year's Day 	At New Year 
In the 10 Years Time 	On Time 	At the Same Time 
In 1980 	On the 10th 	At Breakfast 

Source:

<https://7esl.com/prepositions-of-time/>