

## At/on/in (time)

A

Compare **at**, **on** and **in**:

- ☐ They arrived **at** 5 o'clock.
- ☐ They arrived **on** Friday.
- ☐ They arrived **in** October. / They arrived **in** 1998.

We use:

**at** for the time of day**at** five o'clock    **at** 11.45    **at** midnight    **at** lunchtime    **at** sunset    etc.**on** for days and dates**on** Friday / **on** Fridays    **on** 16 May 2009    **on** Christmas Day    **on** my birthday**in** for longer periods (for example: months/years/seasons)

<b>in</b> October	<b>in</b> 1998	<b>in</b> the 18th century	<b>in</b> the past
<b>in</b> (the) winter	<b>in</b> the 1990s	<b>in</b> the Middle Ages	<b>in</b> (the) future

B

We use **at** in these expressions:**at** night**at** the weekend / **at** weekends**at** Christmas**at** the moment / **at** present**at** the same time

- ☐ I don't like working **at** night.
- ☐ Will you be here **at** the weekend?
- ☐ Do you give each other presents **at** Christmas?
- ☐ The manager isn't here **at** the moment / **at** present.
- ☐ Kate and I arrived **at** the same time.

C

We say:

**in** the morning(s)**in** the afternoon(s)**in** the evening(s)*but***on** Friday morning(s)**on** Sunday afternoon(s)**on** Monday evening(s)    etc.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'll see you <b>in</b> the morning. | <input type="checkbox"/> I'll see you <b>on</b> Friday morning.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do you work <b>in</b> the evenings? | <input type="checkbox"/> Do you work <b>on</b> Saturday evenings? |

D

We do not use **at/on/in** before **last/next/this/every**:

- ☐ I'll see you **next** Friday. (*not* on next Friday)
- ☐ They got married **last** March.

In spoken English we often leave out **on** before days (**Sunday/Monday** etc.). So you can say:

- ☐ I'll see you **on** Friday. *or* I'll see you **Friday**.
- ☐ I don't work **on** Monday mornings. *or* I don't work **Monday** mornings.

E

**In a few minutes / in six months** etc.

- ☐ The train will be leaving **in a few minutes**. (= a few minutes from now)
- ☐ Andy has gone away. He'll be back **in a week**. (= a week from now)
- ☐ They'll be here **in a moment**. (= a moment from now)

You can also say: in six months' **time**, in a week's **time** etc.

- ☐ They're getting married in **six months' time**. *or* ... **in six months**.

We also use **in** ... to say how long it takes to do something:

- ☐ I learnt to drive **in four weeks**. (= it took me four weeks to learn)