

Prepositions and adverbs of time

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Lower-intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_2127G

LANGUAGE
English

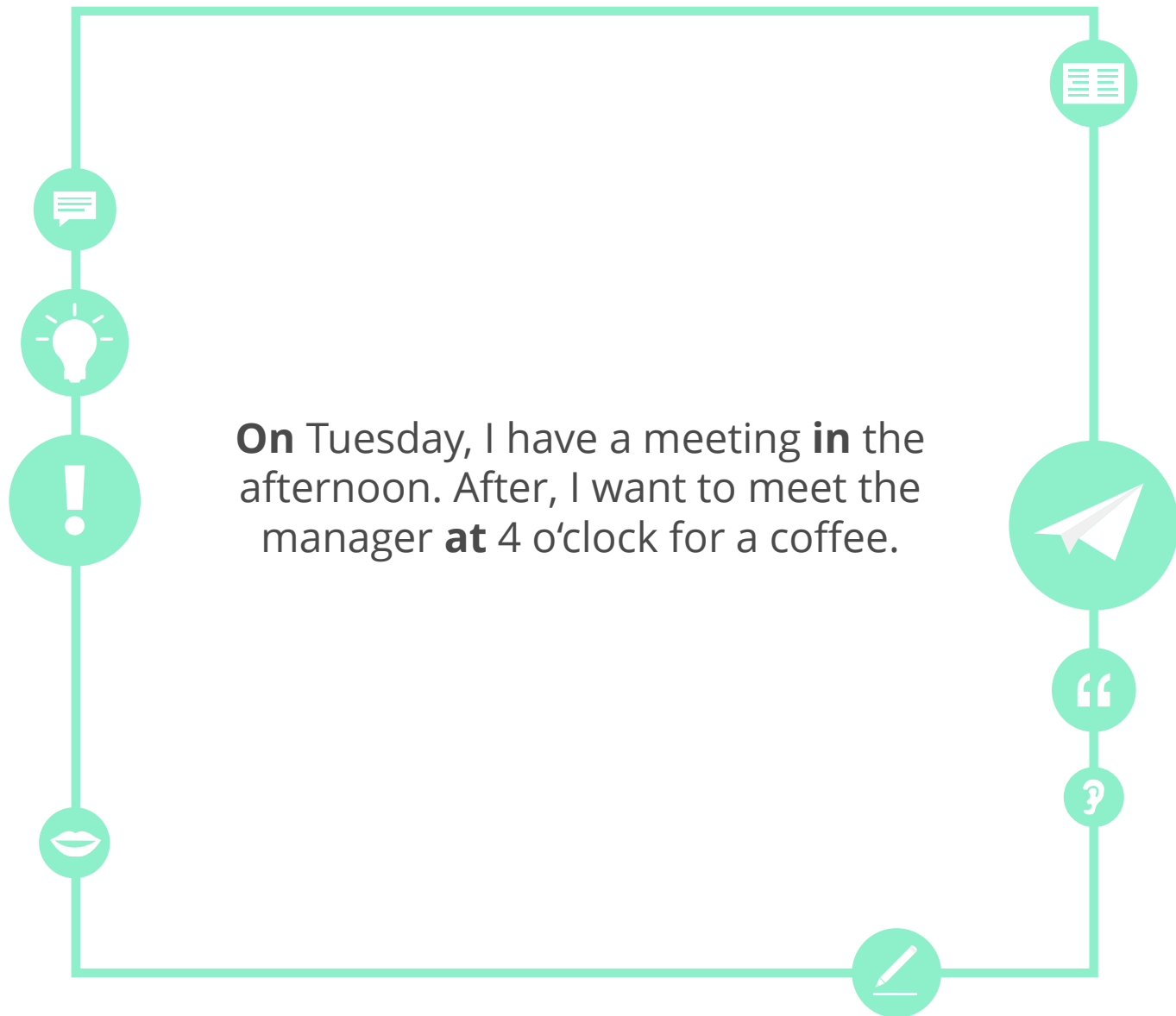




Goals

- Can determine when to use 'in', 'on' and 'at' for time.
- Can correctly use adverbs of time I know and learn new ones.







Preview and warm-up

In this lesson you will learn how to use **prepositions of time**. You will also practise some **adverbs of time**.



We have a meeting **today at** 1 o'clock **in** the afternoon.



In, at, on

- We use **in** with months, years, centuries, parts of the day and seasons.
- We use **on** with days of the week and calendar dates.
- We use **at** with precise times.

in	on	at
He's leaving in June.	I'm leaving on Saturday.	See you at 3 o'clock.
In the morning it's dark.	My meeting is on the 23 rd of March.	The party starts at midnight.
I was born in 1990.	I play tennis on Fridays.	At the moment I'm busy.
He was popular in the 80s.	We have a party on New Year's Eve.	At the weekend I'm not at the office.



More about *in*



- We also use *in* to talk about time passing.
- We can use it with seconds, minutes, hours, days, etc.

<i>in</i> + a period of time	
In a few seconds	After a few seconds have passed
In a minute	After a minute has passed
In two hours	After two hours have passed





Look at these examples



My birthday is **in** March.

I am talking to him **on** Friday.



See you **in** five minutes?

We can have a meeting **at** 3 o'clock.





Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences using *in*, *at* or *on*.

1. She leaves the office _____ 4 o'clock.
2. I am leaving the meeting _____ 15 minutes.
3. He wants to talk _____ Tuesday.
4. I am returning from the US _____ May.
5. She starts working _____ midday.



Put the sentences in the correct list

Put each sentence into the correct list of time prepositions.

My meeting is _____²⁰
minutes.

Do you start work

eight o'clock?

His birthday is

March.

I will see you

quarter to six.

He died

1890.

I don't work

Saturdays.

She is coming here

Tuesday.

I go to the beach
_____the
weekend.

She'll be home
_____two
days.

in

on

at



Tell your teacher when...

your birthday is

you finish work

it snows in your
country

you usually wake up

Halloween is

the best time for a
meeting is

it is warm in your
country

you always see your
friends

you start work

at Christmas

We celebrate *Christmas* on the 25th of December.



I don't work at Christmas.

at Easter

We often celebrate ***Easter*** by eating chocolate eggs.



We eat a lot of chocolate **at Easter**.



New words

in spring

We see new flowers **in spring**.

in summer

I love when it's sunny **in summer**.

in autumn

The trees lose their leaves **in autumn**.

in winter

It always snows **in winter**.



Look at these examples



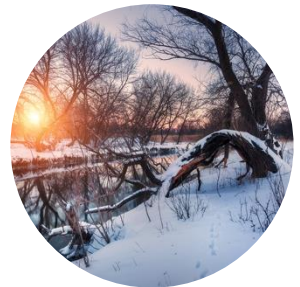
We see flowers **in spring.**

I buy presents **at Christmas.**



He is coming home **at Easter.**

It's cold **in winter.**





Fill in the gaps.

I am leaving work for an appointment
_____ 5 o'clock, which is
_____ thirty minutes. I will be
back at work as normal _____
Monday.

Maybe see you after _____
which is _____ the 25th of
December, remember! It is so cold
right now. I can't wait for
_____ when it is warm again
and I can go to the beach
_____ the weekend!





Correct the mistakes

1. I will meet him on five o'clock.



2. His birthday is in Friday.



3. She bought me lots of chocolate on Easter.



4. It is very cold at winter.



5. Can you come round in the weekend?





Discuss the following with your classmates

When do you take
your holidays from
work?

When is the best time
to start your work
day?

When do you have
your office party?

When did you start
your job at your
current company?



Using adverbs of time

- As well as prepositions, we can also use **adverbs of time** to describe **when** something happens.
- They can describe either a general time or a more specific time without saying the name of the day.



Can you work **the week after next**?

He didn't go to the meeting **the day before yesterday**.





New words

**the day before
yesterday**

I talked to him two days ago, so **the day before yesterday**.

**the day after
tomorrow**

We're seeing her **the day after tomorrow** so in two days.

**the week
before last**

I didn't go to France last week, but **the week before last**.

**the week after
next**

If you are not available next week, can we try **the week after next**?



Sentence examples



I worked last week, but not **the week before last**.

She is on holiday **the week after next**.



He finished the report **the day before yesterday**.

The meeting is on Wednesday, so **the day after tomorrow**.





Multiple choice

1. If today is Tuesday, what is the same as last Sunday?

- a. yesterday b. the day before yesterday c. three days ago d. tomorrow

2. What is another way of referring to two days from today?

- a. tomorrow b. yesterday c. the day after tomorrow d. the day before yesterday

3. What is another phrase for in two weeks?

- a. the week after next b. next week c. last week d. the week before last

4. How can I refer to two weeks previously?

- a. last week b. yesterday c. the day before yesterday d. the week before last



Unscramble the words

Using the words below, unscramble them to make a sentence.





Describe the schedule



Describe this office's imaginary schedule.

Use lots of prepositions and adverbs of time.



Discuss with a partner

**What is your schedule
like next week?**

**And the week after
next?**



Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Exercise 1, p8

1. at
2. in
3. on
4. in
5. at

Exercise 2, p9

My meeting is in 20 minutes
Do you start work at eight o'clock?
His birthday is in March
I will see you at a quarter to six.
He died in 1890.
I don't work on Saturdays
She is coming here on Tuesday
I go to the beach at the weekend.
She'll be home in two days



Answer key

Exercise 5, p21
1. B
2. C
3. A
4. D

Exercise 4, p16
1. At
2. on
3. At
4. In
5. At

Exercise 3, p15
At, in, on, Christmas, on, summer, at





Unscramble the phrases

A

after

week

the

next

C

the

after

tomorrow

day

B

the

yesterday

day

before

D

week

the

last

before



Write about your schedule.

Using prepositions and adverbs of time, write about your work schedule, use your imagination!

<input type="radio"/>	In the summer I get to work at seven o'clock so that I can leave
<input type="radio"/>	early and enjoy the sunshine. The week after next I am going on
<input type="radio"/>	holiday, but I have to meet my manager on Monday...
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Homework answer key

Exercise 1, p.30

1. The week after next
2. The day before yesterday
3. The day after tomorrow
4. The week before last



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