

Prepositions of time: at, in, on

Lesson code: X6AZ-78VB-DUT3-E

INTERMEDIATE

1 Presentation

We often use 'at', 'in' and 'on' in time expressions. Study the table below.

Preposition	Use and examples
at	<i>time of the day:</i> at 2 o'clock at midday at 4pm at lunchtime <i>special expressions:</i> at night at the weekend at Christmas/Easter at the same time at the moment at present
on	<i>days and dates:</i> on Monday on 6 January on Christmas Day on my birthday <i>day + part of day:</i> on Monday morning on Tuesday evening on Thursday afternoon
in	<i>part of the day:</i> in the morning in the afternoon <i>months:</i> in March in January in December <i>seasons:</i> in the summer in winter in spring <i>years:</i> in 2001 in 1969 in 500 BC <i>longer periods:</i> in the 1990s in the 20th century in the Ice Age in the past

When we say **last**, **next**, **every**, **this** we do not also use **at**, **in**, **on**:

- Did you go on holiday ~~in~~ **last** summer?
- My birthday is ~~on~~ **next** Friday.
- I visit my parents ~~at~~ **every** Christmas.
- I had a wonderful breakfast ~~in~~ **this** morning.



2 Practice 1

Complete each sentence with 'at', 'in' or 'on' plus one of the following:

1492

New Year's Eve
night

25 December

Sundays
the 1950s

January

2009
the moment

Monday morning

ancient times
the same time

- The pop star Michael Jackson died in 2009.
- Christians celebrate Christmas _____.
- I don't like driving _____ because it's very dark.
- _____, people believed in many gods.
- Rock and roll music became popular _____.
- I'm really busy _____. Can you call me back later?
- Are you going to see the fireworks display _____?
- Jack arrived late for work _____.
- In Europe and the United States, most people do not work _____.
- I regularly go skiing _____ because it snows a lot.
- Columbus 'discovered' America _____.
- If everybody speaks _____, we'll never understand each other.

3 Practice 2

Complete the telephone conversation with 'at', 'in', 'on' where necessary. If no preposition is needed, leave a space ('-').

Alice: Hi Simon, it's Alice. Are you free - this evening?

Simon: No, I'm afraid I'm busy.

Alice: That's a pity. Are you doing anything _____² the weekend?

Simon: Well, _____³ Saturday, I'm meeting old friend. We played football together _____⁴ last year. But I'm free _____⁵ Sunday.

Alice: Great. How would you like to go to the cinema to see the new James Bond film?

Simon: Sounds good. What time are they showing the film?

Alice: The film starts _____⁶ 8 o'clock. But we should try to get there a little early. The cinema gets pretty busy _____⁷ the evening.

Simon: What's the film like?

Alice: I've heard it's the best Bond film ever.

Simon: We'll see. I prefer the ones that came out _____⁸ the 1960s and 70s.

Alice: I'm sure you'll enjoy it! So shall we meet _____⁹ around 7.30?

Simon: Sounds good. We should do this more often _____¹⁰ the future.

Alice: Yes, we should. There will be a few more interesting films _____¹¹ next weekend too.

Simon: Great! So, see you _____¹² Sunday evening!

