

## Prepositions

A **preposition** is a word that **connects a noun or a pronoun** with a **different word or element in the rest of the sentence**.

Examples:

The book **under** the lion.

The book **on** the lion.

The book **in** front of the lion.

The book **near** the lion.

The book **behind** the lion.

The **prepositions** under, on, in, etc. make a **connection** between **the book** and the **lion**.

The prepositions in this example tell us about the **place** of the book and the lion in relation to each other. We call them **prepositions of place**.

The English language has about 100 prepositions.

**Prepositions can express:**

1. **place:** in, on, at (example: in the house, on the house, at the gate)
2. **time:** in, on, at (in two weeks, on Tuesdays, at noon)
3. **movement:** towards, away from, along ( I am walking towards the river, -away from the river, -along the river)
4. **method:** by (I went there by bus. I sent it by airmail.)
5. **material:** made of (Lego is made of plastic.)

You'll never find single prepositions; they are always married to an **object**.

This means that **all prepositions have an object**.

The **noun that comes after the preposition** is called the **object**.

To find the object of the preposition:

1. **Find the preposition.**

2. Then put the preposition in the blank and ask: \_\_\_\_\_ **who or what?**

Class will begin **at** 8:30. (at what time?) 8:30

Jennifer is standing **behind** Carlos. (behind who?) Carlos

There is a cookie **under the table**. (under what?) the table

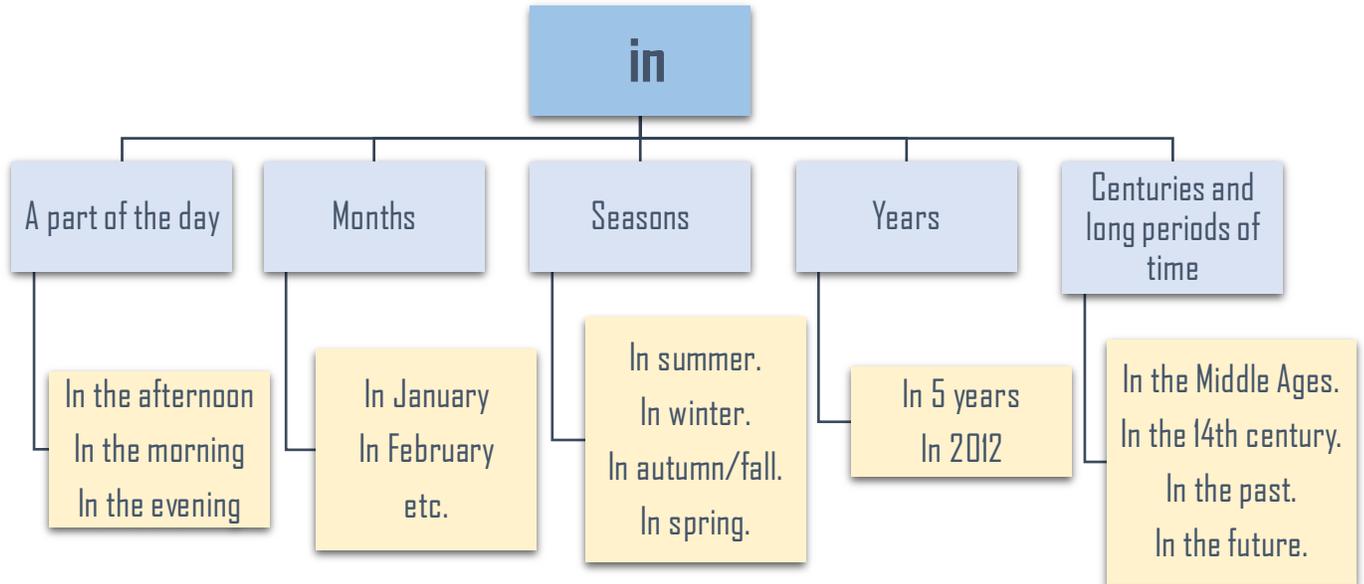
Phil took notes **during the meeting**. (during what?) the meeting

There is an apple **on the refrigerator**. (on what?) the refrigerator.

In this table you see a mix of the 25 most commonly used prepositions:

in	from	through	during	of
to	by	after	without	at
for	about	over	before	like
with	as	between	under	against
on	into	out	around	among

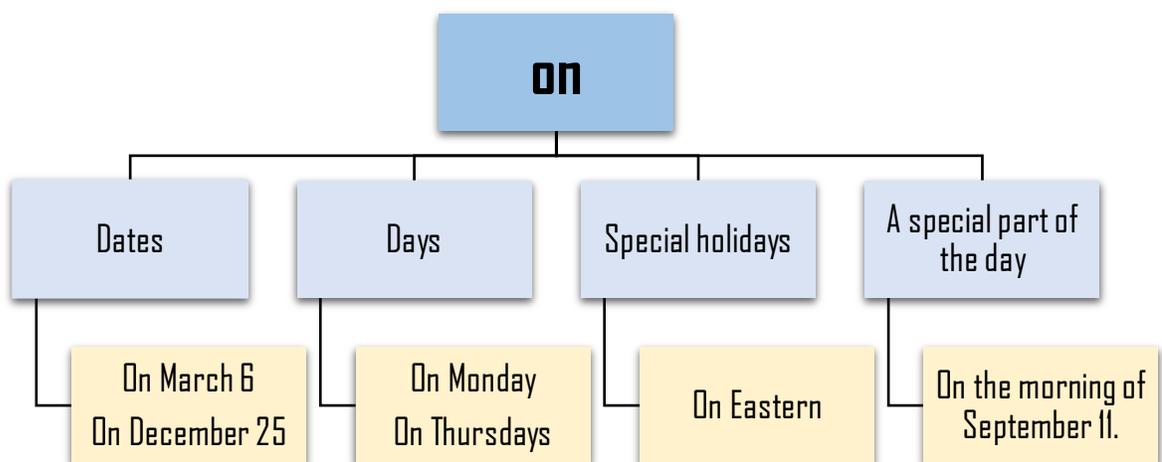


**Examples in longer sentences:**

He retires **in** two years.  
 We can talk about this tomorrow **in** the afternoon.  
 Japan, the new school year begins **in** April.  
 The castle was built **in** the fifteenth century.  
 Music was an essential part of life **in** the Renaissance.

**Seasons:**

Normally don't use 'the' with seasons:  
 Many young animals are born **in** spring.  
 Use 'the' with a particular season:  
 He died **in** the summer of 1942.



**Examples in longer sentences:**

Where will you be **on** Easter Sunday?

Can I pay you back **on** Monday?

He was born **on** November 28, 1879.

I don't go out **on** weeknights.

The Normandy landings were **on** the morning of D-Day, June 6, 1944.

When we say '**this**', '**every**', '**last**', and '**next**' we do not also use '**at**', '**in**', or '**on**'.

**Examples:**

I'll call you this afternoon. (not 'in' this afternoon)

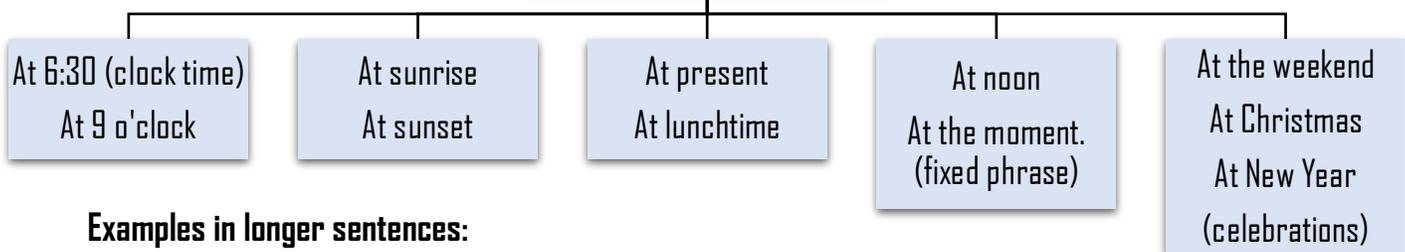
He's leaving next Friday. (not 'on' next Friday)

I go to Germany every Easter. (not 'at' every Easter)

I went to Moscow last May. (not 'in' last May)

**at**

We use 'at' to express a precise time

**Examples in longer sentences:**

Please come to my house **at** 8 o'clock in the evening.

We usually eat our biggest meal **at** noon.

I'm short of cash **at** the moment.

My father used to read books to me **at** bedtime,

The rooster crows **at** sunrise.

The art teacher paints **at** night.

It's a custom to have turkey **at** Thanksgiving.

3.

### Prepositions of Time

Determine what preposition of time fits to each word in the blue column.

Then write each word of the blue column in the relating column **at**, **in**, or **on** below.



1. Saturday afternoon
2. fall/autumn
3. night
4. bedtime
5. the morning
6. October 6
7. Tuesday
8. midnight
9. winter
10. the weekend
11. the evening
12. April
13. noon/midday
14. my birthday
15. summer
16. 14:10
17. the afternoon
18. a holiday
19. the 1970s


<i>the morning</i>

<i>Tuesday</i>

at

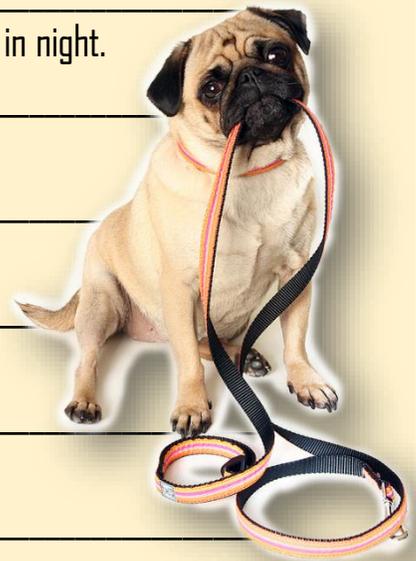
in

on



Correct  
the mistakes and  
rewrite  
the sentences.

- 1. Many goods are transported on midnight by truck.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. At September there were just a few people on the beaches.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Regina moved to the suburbs on 2006.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Jonathan doesn't always arrive at time.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. My father isn't here on the moment.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. What do you normally do at Sundays?  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. He was robbed when coming home late in night.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Eggs spoil quickly at summer.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. He was reading a book on that time.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. He'll be here on 10 minutes.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. The bus will stop here on 5:45 p.m.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. The new semester will start at March.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. On the summer, we have a rainy season for only three weeks.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. He left his hotel on sunrise.  
▪ \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. I haven't seen you on ages!



**5.****Prepositions of Time****RAINBOW OF EDUCATION****Exercise at, in, and on**

1. Come and see me \_\_\_\_\_ eleven o'clock in the morning.
2. She was born \_\_\_\_\_ six a.m. on July 17, 1990.
3. Peter's birthday is \_\_\_\_\_ August.
4. My grandmother was born \_\_\_\_\_ 1953.
5. The celebrations ended in a spectacular fireworks display \_\_\_\_\_ midnight.
6. Did you do anything special \_\_\_\_\_ Eastern Sunday?
7. Albert, who lives in the mountains, usually goes hiking \_\_\_\_\_ the evenings after work.
8. In Holland it often freezes \_\_\_\_\_ spring.
9. Do you want to go shopping with us \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday?
10. I like hot chocolate \_\_\_\_\_ bedtime.
11. That pub isn't open \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday mornings.
12. Mary was still wearing a nightgown \_\_\_\_\_ noon.
13. Hurry up! The concert will start \_\_\_\_\_ a few minutes.
14. My parents often visit my grandmother \_\_\_\_\_ the weekend.
15. Our classes always finish \_\_\_\_\_ 4 o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ the afternoon.
16. There is a meeting \_\_\_\_\_ lunchtime.
17. She learned Russian \_\_\_\_\_ the age of 45.
18. Her next birthday will be \_\_\_\_\_ a Sunday.

**5.****Prepositions of Time****RAINBOW OF EDUCATION**

6. Answer the Questions Prepositions of Time RAINBOW OF EDUCATION



At what time do you get up in the morning? \_\_\_\_\_.  
Do you sometimes get up during the night? \_\_\_\_\_.



Do you ever get up at sunrise? \_\_\_\_\_.  
Why (not)? \_\_\_\_\_.



At what time do you usually go to work or school? \_\_\_\_\_. Are you sometimes late? \_\_\_\_\_. Do you have a break during the morning? \_\_\_\_\_.



What do you usually do on weekday evenings?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.



Do you always eat lunch at school/work? \_\_\_\_\_.  
What time is your lunchtime? \_\_\_\_\_.



What time do you go home? \_\_\_\_\_.  
How do you go home? \_\_\_\_\_.



At what time is sunrise where you live? \_\_\_\_\_.  
And sunset? \_\_\_\_\_.



What day or period of the year is very important to you? \_\_\_\_\_. Why?

\_\_\_\_\_.



What part of the day do you like most? \_\_\_\_\_.  
Why \_\_\_\_\_.



What time is usually bedtime for you?

\_\_\_\_\_.

Hi, my name is Somboon. It's nice to meet you!

I usually wake up \_\_\_\_\_ (1) sunrise but sometimes I have to be awoken by the crowing of our rooster or even by my alarm clock \_\_\_\_\_ (2) 5:30 a.m.

I live in Chiang Mai in Thailand. Here sunset officially is \_\_\_\_\_ 6:05 a.m.

I was born \_\_\_\_\_ December 31, 1993 \_\_\_\_\_ midnight. Many people visited our cozy townhouse \_\_\_\_\_ New Year's Day to see the newborn. \_\_\_\_\_ the afternoons, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. nobody came because then my mother took a rest.

My family moved to Chiang Mai \_\_\_\_\_ November 1995. November is \_\_\_\_\_ the hot season.

\_\_\_\_\_ the age of four, I went to school for the first time. My school bus always left \_\_\_\_\_ 6:30. It always arrived \_\_\_\_\_ time. I don't like to be late.

\_\_\_\_\_ the mornings all students and teachers gathered at the school yard at 08:15 for a short ceremony. \_\_\_\_\_ 10:30 we got school milk. School was always closed \_\_\_\_\_ Saturdays and Sundays.

\_\_\_\_\_ the moment I'm 22 years old.

I'm still a student now. I study English at Chiang Mai University. Our next semester will start \_\_\_\_\_ March. I have to study a lot.

\_\_\_\_\_ weekdays I do homework for 3 hours per day. \_\_\_\_\_ the weekends I even study longer and sometimes stop \_\_\_\_\_ midnight. \_\_\_\_\_ bedtime my mother comes and tells me to stop studying.

\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday evenings, I go to my swim club \_\_\_\_\_ 7 p.m.

I hope to graduate \_\_\_\_\_ September of next year.

My country Thailand is very beautiful. We have many seasonal Festivals. Songkran is \_\_\_\_\_ summer, \_\_\_\_\_ the beginning of April. Temperatures are high then because we're in the hot season. Thai people and many tourists like Songkran for the water splashing. I surely hoop to meet you in Chiang Mai in the near future! Bye, Somboon from Chiang Mai in Thailand.

**8. Multiple Choice, Prepositions of Time in the Gaps**      **RAINBOW OF EDUCATION**

1. I would like to skate on the Dutch canals \_\_\_\_\_ winter.      8. Last night I went to bed \_\_\_\_\_ 7 o'clock.

- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on
- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on

2. They are used to hard work \_\_\_\_\_ weekdays from Monday to Friday.      9. My birthday is next month. I was born \_\_\_\_\_ October 15.

- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on
- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) at

3. I like to read science books \_\_\_\_\_ the evening.      10. This statue is very old. It was made \_\_\_\_\_ 1796.

- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on
- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on

4. \_\_\_\_\_ January of that year, we saw snow for four days.      11. I always get up late \_\_\_\_\_ in the morning.

- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on
- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on

5. The department store is closed \_\_\_\_\_ seven.      12. I'll be sixteen \_\_\_\_\_ my next birthday.

- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on
- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on

6. \_\_\_\_\_ the Renaissance, Art was in its golden age.      13. The concert starts \_\_\_\_\_ 9 o'clock.

- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on
- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on

7. Can we do it \_\_\_\_\_ Monday instead?      14. We will surely visit Belarus \_\_\_\_\_ the future.

- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on
- 1) at
  - 2) in
  - 3) on

### Other Prepositions of Time

**after** (later than a certain moment)

Read **after** me.

**ago** (how far something happened in the past)

He left three days **ago**.

**before** (earlier than a certain moment)

I feed my dog just **before** I eat dinner.

**between** (time that separates two certain moments)

Please plan to leave **between** 06:00 and 07:00.

**by** (not later than a special time)

You must be back by 10 o'clock.

**during** (through the whole of a period of time)

during the Second World War

**for** (period of time)

for 7 years.



10.

## Prepositions of Time



**from...to/from...till/until** (time between two points of time)

from Monday to Wednesday

from Monday till Wednesday

from Monday until Wednesday

**past** (time of the day)

23 minutes past 6 (6:23)

**since** (point of time)

since Monday

**till/until** (no later than a special time)

till tomorrow

until tomorrow

**to** (time of the day)

23 minutes to 6 (5:37)

**up to** (not more than a special period of time)

up to 6 hours a day

**within** (during a period of time)

within a day

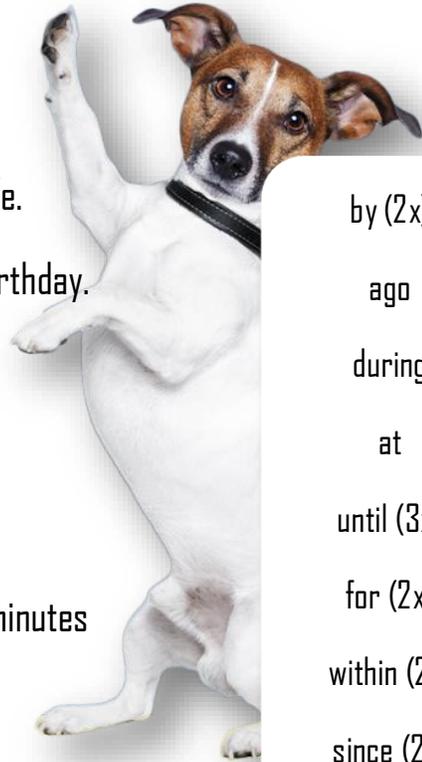


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## Prepositions of Time

RAINBOW OF EDUCATION

1. She has known him \_\_\_\_\_ they were young.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ now, I hadn't had a relationship.
3. My train will arrive \_\_\_\_\_ five minutes \_\_\_\_\_ nine.
4. I'm leaving \_\_\_\_\_ only a few days.
5. I want to live in Holland \_\_\_\_\_ the rest of my life.
6. He died a few days \_\_\_\_\_ his hundredth birthday.
7. Spring comes \_\_\_\_\_ winter and summer.
8. It's impossible to get there \_\_\_\_\_ noon.
9. Please visit me \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_ time.
10. The police were at his door \_\_\_\_\_ three minutes after the phone call.
11. He practices playing the guitar \_\_\_\_\_ late at night.
12. I haven't eaten at my grandmother's house \_\_\_\_\_ I was a kid.
13. I'd like you to look after my dog \_\_\_\_\_ my absence.
14. I'll put it back where it belongs \_\_\_\_\_ using it.
15. I'm not the same fool I was 15 years \_\_\_\_\_.
16. How much time do we have \_\_\_\_\_ we leave?
17. My friend ought to have arrived here \_\_\_\_\_ now.
18. A sprain like this should heal \_\_\_\_\_ a week or so.
19. Ten minutes remained \_\_\_\_\_ the end of the lesson.



by (2x)

ago

during

at

until (3x)

for (2x)

within (2x)

since (2x)

from to

before (2x)

between

after

to

Preposition	Use	Examples
<b>In</b>	in months	in July; in September
	year	in 1985; in 1999
	seasons	in summer; in the winter of 69
	part of the day	in the morning; in the afternoon; in the evening
	The time something starts in the future	in a minute; in two weeks
<b>at</b>	part of the day	at night
	time of day	at 6 o'clock; at midnight
	celebrations	at Christmas; at Ramadan
	fixed phrases	at the same time
<b>on</b>	days of the week	on Sunday; on Friday
	date	on the 25th of December
	special holidays	on Good Friday; on Easter Sunday; on my birthday
	a special part of a day	on the morning of September 11
<b>after</b>	later than a certain time	after school
<b>ago</b>	back in time from the present	6 years ago

13.

### Prepositions of Time, Chart

**RAINBOW OF EDUCATION**

<b>before</b>	earlier than a certain time	before Christmas
<b>between</b>	In the time that separates 2points	between Monday and Friday
<b>by</b>	not later than a special time	by Thursday

<b>during</b>	through the whole of a period of time	during the holidays
<b>for</b>	period of time	for three weeks
<b>from ... to</b> <b>from... till/until</b>	a period of time between two points	from Monday to Wednesday from Monday till Wednesday from Monday until Wednesday
<b>past</b>	time of the day	23 minutes past 6 (6:23)
<b>since</b>	from a point in the past until the present time	since Monday
<b>till/until</b>	no later than a special time	till tomorrow until tomorrow
<b>to</b>	time of the day	23 minutes to 6 (5:37)
<b>up to</b>	the time when a particular period ends	up to 6 hours a day



13.

### Prepositions of Time, Chart

**RAINBOW OF EDUCATION**