Neil

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Vocabulary. I'm Neil...

Catherine
A very smart Neil - and I'm Catherine. Why are you wearing a suit, Neil? You're looking very smart _____.

Neil
Yes you're right, I am wearing a suit because I'm going to a _____ **at one o'clock**!

Catherine
Very good! I love weddings.

Neil
I love weddings too. I'm going to another one **on Saturday**!

Catherine
Fantastic Neil. And **at** and **on** are two of the words we're discussing in today's programme...

Neil
Yes, because we're talking about ____ expressions with **in, on** and **at**.

Catherine
We'll _____ why we say **at one o'clock** but **on Saturday.**

Neil
Yes, and we'll give you lots of _____.

Catherine
Let's start by listening to Mike and Rob. They are trying to find a time to meet up.

Neil
Think about this question while you listen: what time can Rob meet Mike?

INSERT

Mike
How about _____ **on Monday, Rob?**

Rob
Well... I've got a meeting **at 11.30.**

Mike
Ok, are you ____ **on Tuesday**?

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Rob
Hmm... the engineer's coming **at lunchtime**. The washing machine's [ ] again! It happened **at Easter**, too.

Mike
Well, what are you doing **in the afternoon?**

Rob
Sorry - I'm playing football.

Mike
Ok - perhaps we could meet in the [ ] **on Saturday evening?**

Rob
We've got guests **at the weekend.** How about this afternoon **at two thirty**?

Catherine
So, we asked you: What time can Rob meet Mike?

Neil
And the answer is: **at two thirty.**

Catherine
When we say a [ ] time on the clock, we use **at**.

Neil
So, we say **at two thirty, at three o'clock.**

Catherine
We also use **at** in other time expressions. Listen out for them in this [ ].

INSERT CLIP 1

Mike
How about lunch **on Monday, Rob?**

Rob
Well… I've got a meeting **at 11.30.**

Mike
Ok, are you free **on Tuesday**?

Rob
Hmm… The [ ]s coming **at lunchtime**. The washing machine's flooded again! It happened **at Easter**, too.

Catherine
So Rob had a meeting **at 11.30.** It's **at** because it's a time.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Neil
That's right. We also heard **at lunchtime**. We use **at** with particular points _____ the day, like mealtimes, so it's **at breakfast, at lunch, at dinner**.

Catherine
…and also we say **at noon**, **at midnight**.

Neil
Now Rob said his washing machine flooded **at Easter**. We use **at** to talk about a special day or group of days. So, it's **at Easter, at New Year.**

Catherine
At Christmas. So that's **at**. Let's look at **on**. We use **on** with days of the week. So: **on Monday, on Tuesday**.

Neil
We also use **on** with _____ dates: **on the third of May, on June the 20th**.

Catherine
…and we use **on** with specific _____: **on Christmas Day, on Easter Sunday, on my birthday**!

Neil
That's right. But remember it's **at Easter, at Christmas** when we are referring to the general time _____.

Catherine
Let's listen to another clip with more time expressions. Listen out for the time expression with **in**.

INSERT CLIP 2

Mike
What are you doing **in the afternoon?**

Rob
Sorry - I'm playing football.

Mike
Ok - perhaps we could meet in the pub **on Saturday evening?**

Rob
We've got guests **at the weekend.** _____ this afternoon **at two thirty?**

Neil
So we had **in the afternoon**. We use **in** with parts of the day, so it's **in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Catherine
But did you [redacted] that it's **on Saturday evening.** If we use a day of the week plus **morning, afternoon** or **evening,** we use **on**.

Neil
We also use **in** with seasons, so it's **in spring, in the winter.**

Catherine
We use **in** with months and years, so it's **in June, in 1996.**

Neil
Notice also that Rob said **at the weekend**.

Catherine
Rob speaks British English so he used **at the weekend**. Some other speakers will say **on the weekend**. It's perfectly [redacted]

IDENT
6 Minute Vocabulary from the BBC.

Catherine
And we're talking about time expressions with **in, on** and **at**.

Neil
So, to recap, we use **on** with days of the week, dates and special days.

Catherine
We use **at** with times and particular points in the day.

Neil
British people say **at the weekend.**

Catherine
And we also say **at** with [redacted].

Neil
We use **in** for seasons, months and years.

Catherine
And now for a quiz. Fill the gaps with **in, on** or **at**. Ready? Number one. What do you usually do [sfx: beep] the weekend?

Neil
And the answer is **at**.

Catherine
Good. Number two. Don't be late! The film starts [sfx: beep] nine.

Neil
And the answer is **at**.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Catherine
And the last one. There are usually _____ in London [sfx: beep] New Year's Eve.

Neil
And the answer is **on**. Well done if you got them all right.

Catherine
Now for today's top tip for learning vocabulary: Instead of learning individual new words, try learning small chunks of language like time phrases. They will be easier to learn and they make your English sound more natural.

Neil
There's more about this at bbclearningenglish.com. Join us again for more 6 Minute Vocabulary.

Both
Bye!

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