

3

Prepositions of time

Read through the following and fill in the numbered blanks with a suitable preposition of time. Be careful, however, because in one or two cases no preposition is needed!

My parents met (1) the war: (2) August 1943 to be precise. My father was home (3) leave (4) the front, and he decided to spend the first week with his aunt in Liverpool. He hadn't seen her (5) several years, even though she had brought him up (6) his mother's death. Liverpool is not the most beautiful city in the world, but it can be very pleasant (7) summertime, especially early (8) the morning. (9) this particular morning, however, my father was in no mood to enjoy the sunrise over the Mersey. His train left Euston Station (10) time, at midnight, but (11) the time it got to Crewe, it was already three and a half hours (12) schedule. So he was in a bad mood and very tired (13) arrival at Lime Street Station. But something happened (14) minutes of his arrival that changed not only his mood but also his whole life. Feeling thirsty (15) his long journey, he decided to go and have a cup of tea in the station buffet. Typically, it was shut (16) that early hour. A notice on the door read "Opening hours: (17) 7 a.m. (18) 5.30 p.m. He looked at the station clock: ten (19) seven. The buffet should be open (20) now, he thought. But, knowing station buffets, he realised that he could wait (21) 8 or even 9 o'clock before it opened. Suddenly he noticed a pretty girl sitting on a bench. She was pouring some hot liquid from a thermos flask into a cup. Being something of a lady's man, my father (at least this is what my mother told me (22) some years later) sat down and said, "I've never seen such a pretty girl (23) all my life as you. And I haven't had a hot drink (24) last night. If you give me a drink of your tea, I'll marry you and look after you (25) the rest of your life!" Believe it or not, she smiled at him, gave him the tea, and ... well, I wouldn't be here (26) now if the buffet hadn't been shut (27) that fateful day (28) August 1943.