

# On time and in time At the end and in the end

## On time and in time

On time = punctual, not late. If something happens on time, it happens at the time which was planned:

- The 11.45 train left **on time**. (= it left at 11.45)
- 'I'll meet you at 7.30.' 'OK, but please be **on time**.' (= don't be late, be there at 7.30)
- The conference was well-organised. Everything began and finished **on time**.

The opposite of **on time** is **late**:

- Be **on time**. Don't be **late**.

**In time** (for something / to do something) = soon enough:

- Will you be home **in time for dinner**? (= soon enough for dinner)
- I've sent Emma a birthday present. I hope it arrives **in time** (for her birthday). (= on or before her birthday)
- I'm in a hurry. I want to be home **in time** to see the game on television. (= soon enough to see the game)

The opposite of **in time** is **too late**:

- I got home **too late** to see the game on television.

You can say **just in time** (= almost too late):

- We got to the station **just in time** for our train.
- A child ran into the road in front of the car – I managed to stop **just in time**.

## At the end and in the end

**At the end** (of something) = at the time when something ends. For example:

at the end of the month      at the end of January      at the end of the game  
at the end of the film      at the end of the course      at the end of the concert

- I'm going away **at the end of January / at the end of the month**.
- At the end of the concert**, there was great applause.
- The players shook hands **at the end of the game**.

You cannot say '**in the end of ...**'. So you cannot say '**in the end of January**' or '**in the end of the concert**'.

The opposite of **at the end** (of ...) is **at the beginning** (of ...):

- I'm going away **at the beginning of January**. (*not in the beginning*)

**In the end** = finally.

We use **in the end** when we say what the final result of a situation was:

- We had a lot of problems with our car. We sold it **in the end**. (= finally we sold it)
- He got more and more angry. **In the end** he just walked out of the room.
- Alan couldn't decide where to go for his holidays. He didn't go anywhere **in the end**. (*not at the end*)

The opposite of **in the end** is usually **at first**:

- At first** we didn't get on very well, but **in the end** we became good friends.

### 122.1 Complete the sentences with **on time** or **in time**.

- 1 The bus was late this morning, but it's usually on time.
- 2 The film was supposed to start at 8.30, but it didn't begin on time.
- 3 I like to get up in time to have a big breakfast before going to work.
- 4 We want to start the meeting on time, so please don't be late.
- 5 I've just washed this shirt. I want to wear it this evening, so I hope it will be dry on time.
- 6 The train service isn't very good. The trains are rarely on time.
- 7 I nearly missed my flight this morning. I got to the airport just in time.
- 8 I nearly forgot that it was Joe's birthday. Fortunately I remembered on time.
- 9 Why are you never on time? You always keep everybody waiting.

### 122.2 Read the situations and make sentences using just **in time**.

- 1 A child ran into the road in front of your car. You saw the child at the last moment.  
(manage / stop) I managed to stop just in time.
- 2 You were walking home. Just after you got home, it started to rain very heavily.  
(get / home) I got home just in time.
- 3 Tim was going to sit on the chair you had just painted. You said, 'Don't sit on that chair!', so he didn't.  
(stop / him) I stopped him just in time.
- 4 You and a friend went to the cinema. You were late and you thought you would miss the beginning of the film. But the film began just as you sat down in the cinema.  
(get / cinema / beginning of the film)  
We got to the cinema just in time for the beginning of the film.

### 122.3 Complete the sentences using **at the end** + the following:

the course      the game      the interview      the month      the race

- 1 The players shook hands at the end of the game.
- 2 I usually get paid at the end of the month.
- 3 The students had a party at the end of the course.
- 4 Two of the runners collapsed at the end of the race.
- 5 To my surprise, I was offered the job at the end of the interview.

### 122.4 Write sentences with **In the end**. Use the verb in brackets.

- 1 We had a lot of problems with our car. (sell) In the end we sold it.
- 2 Judy got more and more fed up with her job.  
(resign) In the end she resigned.
- 3 I tried to learn German, but I found it too difficult.  
(give up) In the end I gave up.
- 4 We couldn't decide whether to go to the party or not.  
(not / go) In the end we didn't go.

### 122.5 Put in **at** or **in**.

- 1 I'm going away at the end of the month.
- 2 It took me a long time to find a job. in the end I got a job in a hotel.
- 3 Are you going away in the beginning of August or at the end?
- 4 I couldn't decide what to buy Laura for her birthday. I didn't buy her anything in the end.
- 5 We waited ages for a taxi. We gave up in the end and walked home.
- 6 I'll be moving to a new address at the end of September.
- 7 We had a few problems at first, but in the end everything was OK.
- 8 I'm going away at the end of this week.
- 9 A: I didn't know what to do.  
B: Yes, you were in a difficult position. What did you do in the end?