

PREPOSICIONES DE TIEMPO

Existen dos tipos de preposiciones temporales en inglés. En primer lugar, veremos las preposiciones temporales básicas: *at*, *on* e *in*. (En otro documento, veremos las preposiciones funcionales: *after*, *before*, *by*, *during*, *for*, *from*, *in*, *to* y *until*.)

Preposiciones temporales básicas

Las preposiciones *at*, *on* e *in* están asociadas a categorías temporales específicas, que deben memorizarse. Por ejemplo, decimos "at 5 PM on Sunday in June" porque los angloparlantes utilizan *at* con las horas del reloj, *on* con los días e *in* con los meses (y bloques de tiempo más largos). Estudie las categorías y los ejemplos siguientes.

Preposition	Time Categories
at	horas del reloj / horas exactas / periodos festivos / + <i>weekends</i> (UK) / + <i>night</i>
on	días / fechas / días festivos / + <i>weekends</i> (US) / días + <i>morning</i> / <i>afternoon</i> / <i>evening</i>
in	meses / años / estaciones / siglos / eras / + <i>the morning</i> / <i>the afternoon</i> / <i>the evening</i>

Para ayudarte a comprender las categorías temporales anteriores, aquí tienes algunos ejemplos.

at	on	in
at 3:45 PM	on Tuesday	in June
at noon	on September 8, 1969	in August
at midnight	on Christmas Eve	in the winter
at sunrise	on the day we met	in the summer
at sunset	on the weekend	in the morning
at dawn	on weekends	in the afternoon
at Christmastime	on my birthday	in the Renaissance
at the close of day	on Thanksgiving	in the '70s
at night	on Friday mornings	in the 14th century
at 6 o'clock	on the first day of the month	in 1922
at the weekend (UK)	on the 15th	in the Paleolithic

On Christmas vs. At Christmas

Tanto *on* como *at* se utilizan con días festivos, pero el significado es diferente. *On* se utiliza en días concretos y *at* en periodos festivos. Por eso, "on Christmas" significa el día de Navidad (25 de diciembre) y "at Christmas" significa "durante la época navideña" (finales de diciembre). Existe una distinción similar con fiestas más largas, como Semana Santa, Hanukkah, Año Nuevo, el fin de semana de Acción de Gracias, etc.

Ejemplos:

- On Christmas, we always eat dinner at my grandparents' house. (*Christmas Day*)
- I love all the decorations at Christmas. (*Christmas time*)

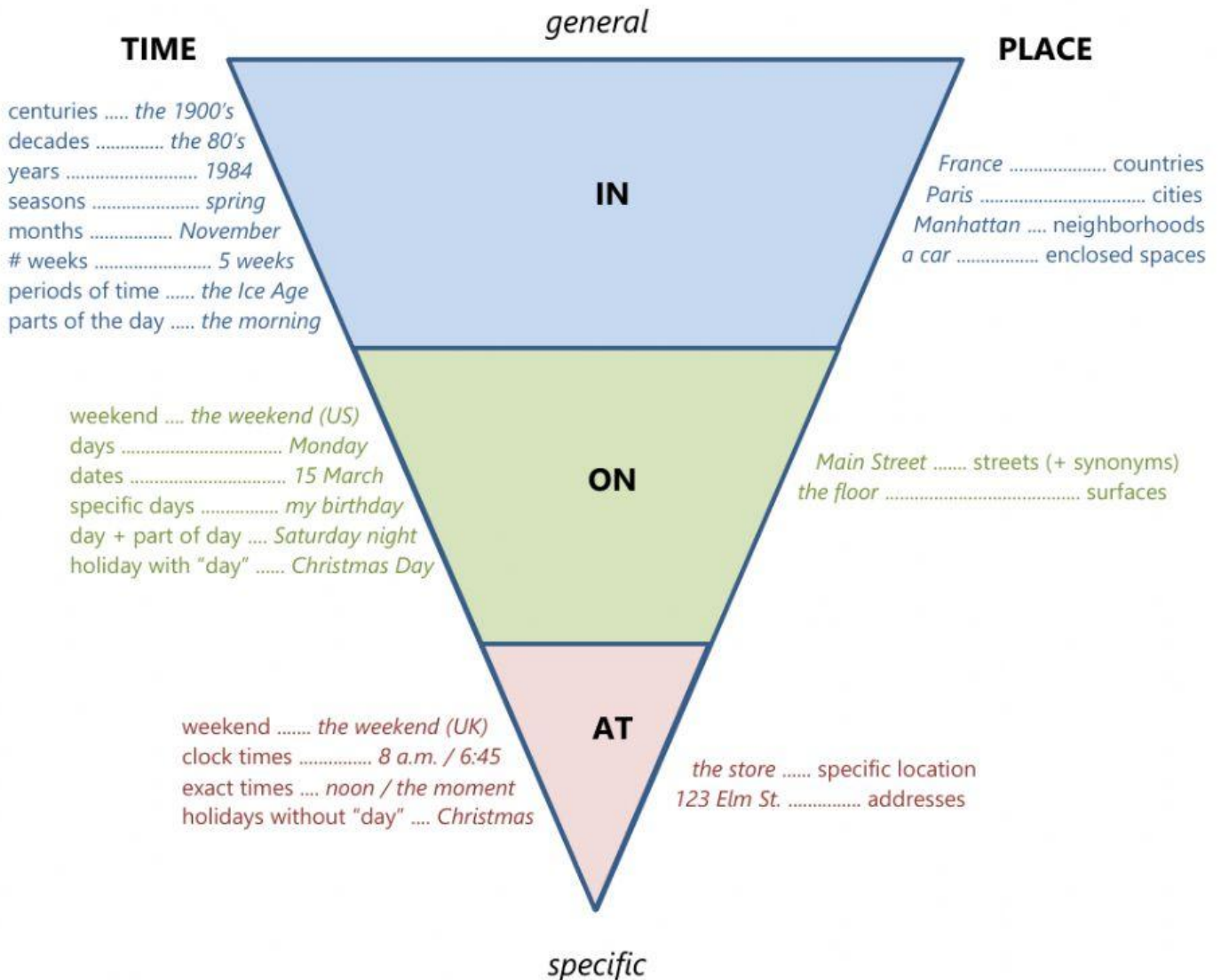
OJO. No usamos preposiciones con *tomorrow*, *yesterday*, *this* + *next*, *last* y *every*.

No utilice *on* con las palabras *tomorrow* o *yesterday*. Del mismo modo, no utilice *at*, *on* o *in* con ninguna de las expresiones enumeradas anteriormente cuando sigan a los demostrativos o las palabras *next* o *last*.

Ejemplos:

- I went to the movies ~~on yesterday~~. *Not correct* I went to the movies **yesterday**. *Correct*
- I go to the movies ~~on every Tuesday~~. *Not correct* I go to the movies **every Tuesday**. *Correct*
- I graduated from college ~~in last August~~. *Not correct* I graduated from college **last August**. *Correct*

Acordáte: Para describir el tiempo (y el lugar), las preposiciones *in*, *on* y *at*, van de lo general a lo específico.



Vamos a practicar...

Write the correct preposition of time—**at**, **on**, or **in**—in the space provided. If no preposition is used, put **X**.

_____ Monday	_____ noon	_____ the evening
_____ yesterday	_____ Valentine's Day	_____ every day
_____ the 12th century	_____ the moment	_____ next year
_____ the 12th of April	_____ tomorrow	_____ dawn
_____ midnight	_____ night	_____ Tuesday night
_____ our anniversary	_____ the next decade*	_____ 11 a.m.
_____ summer	_____ Baroque Period	_____ autumn
_____ March	_____ the weekend	_____ July 21
_____ the afternoon	_____ Friday morning	_____ last night
_____ 10:30	_____ a week from now	_____ Easter Sunday
_____ the 80's	_____ 1984	_____ this morning
_____ Carla's birthday	_____ every Thursday	_____ the 1600's
_____ next winter	_____ Christmastime	_____ the Stone Age

* Be careful. This is a trick question.

Now, fill in the blank with the correct preposition—**at**, **on**, **in** or **X**.

1. Most countries celebrate Labor Day _____ 1 May, but the United States celebrates it _____ September.
2. Cinderella's carriage turned into a pumpkin _____ midnight.
3. _____ weekdays, I usually wake up _____ 8 a.m.
4. Star Wars Day, which is _____ 4 May, celebrates the many *Star Wars* films that everyone in the world—*except Matias*—has enjoyed.
5. Geologist's Day is celebrated _____ the first Sunday in April.
6. _____ the moment, I can't think of any more practice questions.
7. _____ every Christmas, we eat turkey for dinner.
8. I spoke with my brother _____ last Sunday.
9. When Matias works _____ night, he eats lunch _____ midnight.
10. Thanksgiving is always _____ the fourth Thursday _____ November.

Fill in the blank with the correct preposition—**at, on, in** or **X**.

1. Jane is arriving _____ January 26 _____ 2 o'clock _____ the afternoon.
2. It snows here every year _____ December. We always go outside and play in the snow _____ Christmas Day.
3. Michael is arriving _____ today _____ noon.
4. Frankie started working for her law firm _____ 1995. I think she started _____ June.
5. Franklin began working on the project _____ last week.
6. Normally, _____ New Year's Eve, it's tradition to kiss the one you love _____ midnight.
- 7 Don't be ridiculous; there were no telephones _____ the seventeenth century! The telephone was invented _____ the 1870s.
8. The plane leaves _____ tomorrow morning _____ 8:00 AM.
9. The hills here are covered with wildflowers _____ early spring.
10. The conference begins _____ Friday _____ 2 PM, and it will end _____ next Monday.

Now, write original sentences using a basic preposition of time and the following words.

1. 1999
2. 8 o'clock
3. the 18th century
4. tomorrow morning
5. Saturday night
6. 9 July
7. the 90's
8. next month
9. noon
10. half an hour