

I'm afraid I can't stop and talk – I'm **in a hurry**.

I'm going to Jo's wedding and I have to get to the church **on time**.
If I get the 3.30 train, I'll be there **in time** to walk to the church.

It'll be great: I haven't
seen my cousins **for ages**.

I enjoy weddings,
but **at times** I get
emotional and cry.

Jo told me last year she was getting
married. **At the time** I was very surprised!

It was difficult finding anywhere to live,
but **at last** they've bought a flat.
They can't move in yet. **In the meantime**,
they'll live with Jo's parents.

The ceremony is quite short, so we won't
be in the church **for long**.

By the time the wedding ceremony is
over though, I'll be hungry.
We're all going to the reception
afterwards, and we'll be there **for a while**.

SPOTLIGHT *at last*

At last means 'in the end' or 'finally', but is often used after there has been a long wait and/or a number of problems.

- We spent all day looking for a pharmacy, then **at last** we found one.

(NOT We went to the cinema, had a meal, then *at last* went home.)

GLOSSARY

in a hurry	needing or wanting to do sth very quickly
on time	not late or early; at exactly the correct time
in time (for sth/ to do sth)	not late
for long	(used in questions and negative sentences) for a long time
by the time	used for saying what has already happened when sth else happens
for a while	a period of time (not usually a long time)
for ages	for a very long time
at times	sometimes: <i>My job is difficult at times.</i>
at the time	(referring to a past time) then
in the meantime	in the time between two things happening SYN meanwhile

1 Make seven more time phrases using words the box.

by ✓ in in the at ages time meantime the time ✓
for for a at in a while times last hurry

► by the time

2 Complete the sentences.

- The students are usually here on time.
- 1 I ran back to the shop, but by the I got there, it was closed.
 - 2 Seb's not here, but he won't be out for because it's nearly dinner time!
 - 3 Li went to the beach, so he'll be gone for a In the, let's chat.
 - 4 I was standing in the rain for half an hour and then at they got here.
 - 5 Martin was in a, so he couldn't stop for lunch.
 - 6 Do you know, I haven't seen my next-door neighbour for

3 Complete the sentences with a suitable time phrase.

- It's usually warm here, but at times it can get cold in the evenings.
- 1 It doesn't matter if you're early. Just make sure you're there for the meal.
 - 2 When Max says 8 p.m., he means 8 p.m., so be there
 - 3 We haven't been outside Europe it must be about five years.
 - 4 When I got there, Sylvia was studying, so I didn't stay
 - 5 I don't remember much about the cottage. I was just a small child.
 - 6 We spent months looking for somewhere to live, then we found just the right place – close to the centre but in a quiet road.
 - 7 When I first lived in Edinburgh, I stayed with my aunt – just a couple of weeks.
 - 8 I'd like to play tennis, but I finish this work, it'll be too late.
 - 9 My parents said they would be back in a couple of hours, so we could watch a video.



TEST YOURSELF