

At/on/in (time)

A

Compare **at**, **on** and **in**:

- ☐ They arrived **at** 5 o'clock.
- ☐ They arrived **on** Friday.
- ☐ They arrived **in** October. / They arrived **in** 1998.

We use:

at for the time of day**at** five o'clock **at** 11.45 **at** midnight **at** lunchtime **at** sunset etc.**on** for days and dates**on** Friday / **on** Fridays **on** 16 May 2009 **on** Christmas Day **on** my birthday**in** for longer periods (for example: months/years/seasons)

in October	in 1998	in the 18th century	in the past
in (the) winter	in the 1990s	in the Middle Ages	in (the) future

B

We use **at** in these expressions:**at** night**at** the weekend / **at** weekends**at** Christmas**at** the moment / **at** present**at** the same time

- ☐ I don't like working **at** night.
- ☐ Will you be here **at** the weekend?
- ☐ Do you give each other presents **at** Christmas?
- ☐ The manager isn't here **at** the moment / **at** present.
- ☐ Kate and I arrived **at** the same time.

C

We say:

in the morning(s)**in** the afternoon(s)**in** the evening(s)*but***on** Friday morning(s)**on** Sunday afternoon(s)**on** Monday evening(s) etc.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ I'll see you in the morning. | ☐ I'll see you on Friday morning. |
| ☐ Do you work in the evenings? | ☐ Do you work on Saturday evenings? |

D

We do not use **at/on/in** before **last/next/this/every**:

- ☐ I'll see you **next** Friday. (*not* on next Friday)
- ☐ They got married **last** March.

In spoken English we often leave out **on** before days (**Sunday/Monday** etc.). So you can say:

- ☐ I'll see you **on** Friday. *or* I'll see you **Friday**.
- ☐ I don't work **on** Monday mornings. *or* I don't work **Monday mornings**.

E

In a few minutes / in six months etc.

- ☐ The train will be leaving **in a few minutes**. (= a few minutes from now)
- ☐ Andy has gone away. He'll be back **in a week**. (= a week from now)
- ☐ They'll be here **in a moment**. (= a moment from now)

You can also say: **in six months' time**, **in a week's time** etc.

- ☐ They're getting married **in six months' time**. *or* ... **in six months**.

We also use **in ...** to say how long it takes to do something:

- ☐ I learnt to drive **in four weeks**. (= it took me four weeks to learn)

121.1 Put in **at**, **on** or **in**.

- 1 Mozart was born in Salzburg in 1756.
- 2 I've been invited to a wedding on 14 February.
- 3 Electricity prices are going up in October.
- 4 On weekends, we often go for long walks in the country.
- 5 I haven't seen Kate for a few days. I last saw her on Tuesday.
- 6 Jonathan is 63. He'll be retiring from his job in two years' time.
- 7 I'm busy right now, but I'll be with you at a moment.
- 8 My brother is an engineer, but he doesn't have a job at the moment.
- 9 There are usually a lot of parties on New Year's Eve.
- 10 I don't like driving at night.
- 11 My car is being repaired at the garage. It will be ready in two hours.
- 12 My phone and the doorbell rang at the same time.
- 13 Mary and David always go out for dinner on their wedding anniversary.
- 14 It was a short book and easy to read. I read it in a day.
- 15 On Saturday night I went to bed at midnight.
- 16 We travelled overnight and arrived at 5 o'clock in the morning.
- 17 The course begins on 7 January and ends sometime in April.
- 18 I might not be at home on Tuesday morning, but I'll be there in the afternoon.

121.2 Complete the sentences. Use **at**, **on** or **in** + the following:

the evening	about 20 minutes	1492	the same time
the moment	21 July 1969	the 1920s	night
Saturdays	the Middle Ages	11 seconds	

- 1 Columbus made his first voyage from Europe to America in 1492.
- 2 If the sky is clear, you can see the stars at night.
- 3 After working hard during the day, I like to relax in the evening.
- 4 Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon on 21 July 1969.
- 5 It's difficult to listen if everyone is speaking at the same time.
- 6 Jazz became popular in the United States in the 1920s.
- 7 I'm just going out to the shop. I'll be back in about 20 minutes.
- 8 'Can I speak to Dan?' 'I'm afraid he's busy at the moment.'
- 9 Many of Europe's great cathedrals were built in the Middle Ages.
- 10 Ben is a very fast runner. He can run 100 metres in 11 seconds.
- 11 Liz works from Monday to Friday. Sometimes she also works on Saturdays.

121.3 Which is correct: **a**, **b**, or both of them?

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| 1 a I'll see you on Friday. | b I'll see you Friday. | <u>both</u> |
| 2 a I'll see you on next Friday. | b I'll see you next Friday. | <u>b</u> |
| 3 a Paul got married in April. | b Paul got married April. | |
| 4 a They never go out on Sunday evenings. | b They never go out Sunday evenings. | |
| 5 a We often have a short holiday on Christmas. | b We often have a short holiday at Christmas. | |
| 6 a What are you doing the weekend? | b What are you doing at the weekend? | |
| 7 a Will you be here on Tuesday? | b Will you be here Tuesday? | |
| 8 a We were ill at the same time. | b We were ill in the same time. | |
| 9 a Sue got married at 18 May 2008. | b Sue got married on 18 May 2008. | |
| 10 a He left school last June. | b He left school in last June. | |