

**Neil**

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Vocabulary. I'm Neil...

**Catherine**

A very smart Neil - and I'm Catherine. Why are you wearing a suit, Neil? You're looking very smart [redacted].

**Neil**

Yes you're right, I am wearing a suit because I'm going to a [redacted] **at one o'clock!**

**Catherine**

Very good! I love weddings.

**Neil**

I love weddings too. I'm going to another one **on Saturday!**

**Catherine**

Fantastic Neil. And **at** and **on** are two of the words we're discussing in today's programme...

**Neil**

Yes, because we're talking about [redacted] expressions with **in**, **on** and **at**.

**Catherine**

We'll [redacted] why we say **at one o'clock** but **on Saturday**.

**Neil**

Yes, and we'll give you lots of [redacted].

**Catherine**

Let's start by listening to Mike and Rob. They are trying to find a time to meet up.

**Neil**

Think about this question while you listen: what time can Rob meet Mike?

**INSERT**

**Mike**

How about [redacted] **on Monday**, Rob?

**Rob**

Well... I've got a meeting **at 11.30**.

**Mike**

Ok, are you [redacted] **on Tuesday**?

**Rob**

Hmm... the engineer's coming **at lunchtime**. The washing machine's [redacted] again! It happened **at Easter**, too.

**Mike**

Well, what are you doing **in the afternoon**?

**Rob**

Sorry - I'm playing football.

**Mike**

Ok - perhaps we could meet in the [redacted] **on Saturday evening**?

**Rob**

We've got guests **at the weekend**. How about this afternoon **at two thirty**?

**Catherine**

So, we asked you: What time can Rob meet Mike?

**Neil**

And the answer is: **at two thirty**.

**Catherine**

When we say a [redacted] time on the clock, we use **at**.

**Neil**

So, we say **at two thirty, at three o'clock**.

**Catherine**

We also use **at** in other time expressions. Listen out for them in this [redacted].

#### **INSERT CLIP 1**

**Mike**

How about lunch **on Monday, Rob**?

**Rob**

Well... I've got a meeting **at 11.30**.

**Mike**

Ok, are you free **on Tuesday**?

**Rob**

Hmm... The [redacted] s coming **at lunchtime**. The washing machine's flooded again! It happened **at Easter**, too.

**Catherine**

So Rob had a meeting **at 11.30**. It's **at** because it's a time.

**Neil**

That's right. We also heard **at lunchtime**. We use **at** with particular points [redacted] the day, like mealtimes, so it's **at breakfast, at lunch, at dinner**.

**Catherine**

...and also we say **at noon, at midnight**.

**Neil**

Now Rob said his washing machine flooded **at Easter**. We use **at** to talk about a special day or group of days. So, it's **at Easter, at New Year**.

**Catherine**

At Christmas. So that's **at**. Let's look at **on**. We use **on** with days of the week. So: **on Monday, on Tuesday**.

**Neil**

We also use **on** with [redacted] dates: **on the third of May, on June the 20th**.

**Catherine**

...and we use **on** with specific [redacted]: **on Christmas Day, on Easter Sunday, on my birthday!**

**Neil**

That's right. But remember it's **at Easter, at Christmas** when we are referring to the general time [redacted].

**Catherine**

Let's listen to another clip with more time expressions. Listen out for the time expression with **in**.

## INSERT CLIP 2

**Mike**

What are you doing **in the afternoon**?

**Rob**

Sorry - I'm playing football.

**Mike**

Ok - perhaps we could meet in the pub **on Saturday evening**?

**Rob**

We've got guests **at the weekend**. [redacted] this afternoon **at two thirty**?

**Neil**

So we had **in the afternoon**. We use **in** with parts of the day, so it's **in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening**.

**Catherine**

But did you [redacted] that it's **on Saturday evening**. If we use a day of the week plus **morning, afternoon** or **evening**, we use **on**.

**Neil**

We also use **in** with seasons, so it's **in spring, in the winter**.

**Catherine**

We use **in** with months and years, so it's **in June, in 1996**.

**Neil**

Notice also that Rob said **at the weekend**.

**Catherine**

Rob speaks British English so he used **at the weekend**. Some other speakers will say **on the weekend**. It's perfectly [redacted]

**IDENT**

6 Minute Vocabulary from the BBC.

**Catherine**

And we're talking about time expressions with **in, on** and **at**.

**Neil**

So, to recap, we use **on** with days of the week, dates and special days.

**Catherine**

We use **at** with times and particular points in the day.

**Neil**

British people say **at the weekend**.

**Catherine**

And we also say **at** with [redacted].

**Neil**

We use **in** for seasons, months and years.

**Catherine**

And now for a quiz. Fill the gaps with **in, on** or **at**. Ready? Number one. What do you usually do [sfx: beep] the weekend?

**Neil**

And the answer is **at**.

**Catherine**

Good. Number two. Don't be late! The film starts [sfx: beep] nine.

**Neil**

And the answer is **at**.

**Catherine**

And the last one. There are usually [redacted] in London [sfx: beep] New Year's Eve.

**Neil**

And the answer is **on**. Well done if you got them all right.

**Catherine**

Now for today's top tip for learning vocabulary: Instead of learning individual new words, try learning small chunks of language like time phrases. They will be easier to learn and they make your English sound more natural.

**Neil**

There's more about this at [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com). Join us again for more 6 Minute Vocabulary.

**Both**

Bye!