

Expressions with time



VOCABULARY BANK

1 VERBS

a Complete the sentences with a verb from the list.

give have kill make up for play for run out of
save spare spend take (x2) take up waste

- I **waste** a lot of time playing games and messaging on my computer instead of studying.
- If you take the motorway, you'll _____ time – it's much quicker than the local roads.
- I had three hours to wait for my flight, so I sat there doing sudoku puzzles to _____ time.
- There's no hurry, so _____ your time.
- When my mother was young, she never had the chance to travel. Now she's retired and wants to _____ lost time, so she's booked a trip around the world.
- The novel is 700 pages long and I'm a slow reader. It's going to _____ me a long time to finish it.
- I'd better go home now. If I'm late again, Dad will _____ me a hard time.
- I would like to go camping this weekend, but my final exams are next week, so I can't _____ the time.
- My children _____ all my time – I never seem to get to read a book or watch a film!
- New York's such a fantastic city! You're going to _____ the time of your life there.
- Let's not _____ too long at the museum or we'll _____ time.
- They want us to sign the contract today, but I'm not sure about it. I think we should _____ time.

b 5.4 Listen and check.

2 PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

a Complete the **Prepositions** column with the prepositions from the list.

at (x3) before behind by from (x2) in (x2) off
on to (x2)

Prepositions

- I'm really punctual, so I hate it when other people aren't _____ time. on
- I've never heard of that singer. He must have been _____ my time. _____
- _____ the time we got to our hotel, it was nearly midnight. _____
- I missed the birth of my first child. I was on a plane _____ the time. _____
- She's been working too hard recently. She needs some _____ time. _____

- If we don't take a taxi, we won't get to the airport _____ time for the flight. _____
- I don't eat out very often, but I do get a takeaway _____ time _____ time. _____
- He suffers from back pain and it makes him a little irritable _____ times. _____
- You can come _____ any time _____ 10.00 _____ 2.00. _____
- My dad's a bit _____ the times – he still thinks men should wear a suit and tie at work. _____
- Don't try to multitask. Just do _____ one thing _____ a time. _____
- I thought it would take ages, but in fact I finished it _____ no time. _____

b 5.5 Listen and check.

3 EXPRESSIONS

a Match sentences 1–12 to A–L.

- I The referee's looking at his watch.
- He hardly spoke to me at lunch.
- I'm really looking forward to my holiday.
- I'm sorry, I can't help you this week.
- I can't afford a new car.
- She's sure to find a job eventually.
- I think I need to take up a hobby.
- Stop writing, please.
- I really thought I was going to be late.
- Why not spend a morning at our spa?
- I hate having to fill in my tax return.
- You've had that computer for ages.

- But in the end I got to the airport **with time to spare**.
- He spent **the whole time** talking on his phone.
- Time's up**. The exam is over.
- I'm a little **short of time**.
- I've got time on my hands** since I retired.
- I'll have to carry on with this one **for the time being**.
- It's only **a matter of time**.
- It's very popular with people who want a bit of **me time**.
- There isn't much time left**.
- This time next week** I'll be lying on the beach.
- It's about time** you got a new one.
- It's incredibly tedious and **time-consuming**.

b 5.6 Listen and check.

ACTIVATION Choose six of the **bold** time expressions and write a synonym or a phrase with the same meaning, e.g. **save time** = spend less time, **on time** = punctual. ➔
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