

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

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

### 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