

At, In or On

Unit 3

AT, IN AND ON IN TIME EXPRESSIONS

We use at with:
- points of time:
  at three o'clock, at the end of the lesson, at midnight
- mealtimes:
  We can meet at breakfast.
- the weekend, Christmas and Easter:
  Why don't we go to the cinema at the weekend?
- night when talking about nights in general:
  I prefer to study at night because it's quieter.

Note: on the weekend is common in American English.

We use in:
- for periods of time: in 2014, in April, in the summer, in the 19th century
- for parts of the day:
  Paola often has a short sleep in the afternoon.
- to say the period of time before something happens or how long something takes:
  I'll be going to university in six weeks' time.
  He did the writing task in just 13 minutes.

We use on:
- for particular dates, days, parts of days or types of days:
  He was born on July 13th.
  What are you doing on Sunday night?
  I remember getting my first pet dog on a sunny day in August.

AT, IN AND ON TO EXPRESS LOCATION

We use at:
- when we think of a place as a point, not an area (including at home, at school, at work, at university):
  The postman is at the front door.
- to talk about an event with a number of people:
  I'll see you at the party tonight!
- for addresses:
  The party is at 367 Wood Avenue.

We use in:
- when we think of a place as an area or space:
  Olga lives in St Petersburg. Sonia lives in a large house in the country.
- for cars and taxis:
  I love listening to music when I'm in the car.
- normally with in class, in hospital, in prison, in court:
  Patrick is in hospital with a broken leg.
- with people or things which form lines:
  We stood in the ticket queue for four hours.
- for the world:
  He's reputed to be one of the richest men in the world.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

We use on:
- to talk about a position in contact with a surface:
  There's an insect on your forehead.
  She lay on the beach all day.
- with coast, road to, the outskirts of, the edge of, border, the way to/from, etc.:
  We can stop at my village, which is on the way to Madrid.
- with means of transport apart from cars and taxis:
  I always get frightened on planes.
- for technology:
  He's been on the phone for hours.
  I found out about it on Facebook.
- with left and right:
  Talk to the student on your right.
- with premises, farm, floor, island and list:
  It's on the fifth floor.
  You're not on my list of students for this class.

At	In	On
at your/my house	in the world	on the beach
at the festival	in the city	on the/a train
at the party	in the mountains	on the island
at the theatre	in the country	on the/a farm
at the/your hotel	in the town	on the outskirts
at the concert	in the sky	on the floor
at my school	in the hotel	on the stage
at the camp	in a car	on the bus
at the university	in this area	on the road(s)
at the beach	in the countryside	on the plane
at the airport	in the street	
at the seaside	in the sea	
	in traffic jams	

PRACTICE BANK

A. Complete these sentences by writing at, in or on:

1. We went to dangerous a trip to the forest _____ night.
2. Mark went off with his couple _____ October.
3. The tourists visited many cafés _____ the evening.
4. Alfie got up _____ eight o´clock every morning and went swimming in the river, even _____ days when it was cloudy.
5. I know them! These people live _____ my hometown.
6. The first time I met her, she was taking a coffee _____ Paris.
7. Mark was crying _____ the back of the classroom.
8. You can´t get lost, my house is _____ the end of the street.
9. Don´t you remember when we walked _____ the garden?
10. We had an emergency, so I stopped _____ the hospital.
11. I think we should ban smoking _____ public places.
12. Look! I finally found my wallet: it was _____ the desk.
13. Look at the concert´s poster _____ the wall: it looks great.
14. I always see that woman _____ my dreams.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B. Complete these sentences from by writing at, in or on in the gaps.

1. We got up ..... about nine every morning and went swimming in the lake, even ..... days when it was cloudy.
2. We also went for walks in the forest ..... night.
3. We were allowed to go out to cafés together ..... the evenings ...
4. I went off with a couple of my friends ..... March.

C. Candidates often make mistakes with at, in and on in time phrases. Make sentences.

• Lots of people go to the beach • The best time to visit my country is • My mother's birthday's • The roads here are usually busy • I always do my homework • It's a good idea to start hiking early	At On In	July. December. summer. spring. autumn. winter. the morning. Sunday evenings. night. the weekend. the afternoons. 14 September.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

D. Complete each gap in the email with at, in or on.

Dear Antonio
I'm glad you're visiting me and my family (1) .....in..... the summer, but my parents say it's better if you come (2) ..... August rather than September because I start school again (3) ..... 6th September. I'm so looking forward to the holidays. I have to get up early (4) ..... weekdays in term time because the bus to school leaves (5) ..... 7.30. But I get up late (6) ..... Saturdays and (7) ..... . The afternoon I meet my friends. I always play football (8) ..... Sunday mornings so I get up quite early then too. (9) ..... the holidays I spend a lot of time on the beach. Sometimes my family doesn't go to bed till quite late (10) ..... night as it's really hot here and it's hard to get to sleep. Can't wait to see you again.
Luke

LIVEWORKSHEETS