

# PREPOSITIONS OF TIME & PLACE

## AT – IN - ON

### Prepositions of Time

Prepositions of time - here's a list of the time words that need 'on', 'in', 'at' and some that don't need any preposition.

**Be careful** – Do not use 'on' with months (it should be 'in'), or put a preposition before 'next' when we don't need one.

<b>at</b>	<b>times:</b> at 8pm, at midnight, at 6:30 <b>holiday periods:</b> at Christmas, at Easter at night at the weekend at lunchtime, at dinnertime, at breakfast time
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<b>on</b>	<b>days:</b> on Monday, on my birthday, on Christmas Day <b>days + morning / afternoon / evening / night:</b> on Tuesday morning <b>dates:</b> on the 20th of June
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<b>in</b>	<b>years:</b> in 1992, in 2006 <b>months:</b> in December, in June <b>decades:</b> in the sixties, in the 1790s <b>centuries:</b> in the 19th century <b>seasons:</b> in winter, in summer in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening
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<b>-</b>	<b>next</b> week, year, month etc <b>last</b> night, year etc <b>this</b> morning, month etc <b>every</b> day, night, years etc today, tomorrow, yesterday
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## Prepositions of Place

Prepositions of place can be difficult - here's some help about using 'at', 'in' and 'on' when you're talking about where things are.

If something is **contained inside a box** or **a wide flat area**, we use **'in'**:

in the newspaper	in a house	
in a cup	in a drawer	
in a bottle	in a bag	
in bed	<b>in a car</b>	
in London	in England	in the world
in a book	in a pub	
in a field	in the sea	
in my stomach	in a river	

If something is **on a line** or **a horizontal or vertical surface**, we use **'on'**:

on the table	on the wall
on the floor	on the window
on my face	on a plate
on the page	on the sofa
on a chair	on a bag
on the river	on a t-shirt
on the ceiling	on a bottle
on a bike	on his foot

If something is **at a point**, (it could be a building) we use **'at'**:

at the airport	at the door
at the table	at the bus stop
at the cinema	at the top
at the bottom	at the pub



at the traffic lights

at the front

at the back

at school

at university

at the window

at the hospital

at the piano

**Here are some more common ones that don't really fit:**

on TV

on the bus

on a train

on a plane

“public transport”

on the radio

at home

at work

## EXERCISES

Put in the correct preposition:

1. Turn left \_\_\_\_\_ the traffic lights.
2. She was listening to classical music \_\_\_\_\_ the radio.
3. He has a house \_\_\_\_\_ the river.
4. The answer is \_\_\_\_\_ the bottom of the page.
5. Julie will be \_\_\_\_\_ the plane now.
6. There are a lot of magnets \_\_\_\_\_ the fridge.
7. She lives \_\_\_\_\_ London.
8. John is \_\_\_\_\_ a taxi. He's coming.
9. I'll meet you \_\_\_\_\_ the airport.
10. She stood \_\_\_\_\_ the window and looked out.
11. She studies \_\_\_\_\_ every day.
12. John is going to buy the presents \_\_\_\_\_ today
13. In my hometown the shops open early \_\_\_\_\_ morning
14. She met her husband \_\_\_\_\_ 1998.
15. The party is \_\_\_\_\_ next Saturday.
16. We are meeting \_\_\_\_\_ Friday morning.
17. I often get sleepy \_\_\_\_\_ the afternoon.
18. Mobile phones became popular \_\_\_\_\_ the nineties.
19. The meeting will take place \_\_\_\_\_ this afternoon.
20. Luckily the weather was perfect \_\_\_\_\_ her wedding day

Answers:

1. *Turn left at the traffic lights.*
2. *She was listening to classical music on the radio.*
3. *He has a house on the river.*
4. *The answer is at the bottom of the page.*
5. *Julie will be on the plane now.*
6. *There are a lot of magnets on the fridge.*
7. *She lives in London.*
8. *John is in a taxi. He's coming.*
9. *I'll meet you at the airport.*
10. *She stood at the window and looked out.*
11. *John is going to buy the presents \_ today.*
12. *In my hometown the shops open early in the morning.*
13. *She met her husband in 1998.*
14. *The party is \_ next Saturday.*
15. *We are meeting on Friday morning.*
16. *I often get sleepy in the afternoon.*
17. *His daughter was born on the 24th of August.*
18. *Mobile phones became popular in the nineties.*
19. *The meeting will take place \_ this afternoon.*
20. *Luckily the weather was perfect on her wedding day.*