

## Prepositions of Time

### Introduction

1) A preposition is usually a short word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence.

*If I'm not mistaken, her birthday is **in** May.*

2) There are many types of prepositions. Among them there are prepositions of time. They are used to denote specific time periods. We usually use prepositions of time when we answer the question beginning with 'When?'.

***When** did you move to New York? – I moved there **in** 2007.*

There are three main prepositions of time:

a) *at* denotes precise time.

*I'll pick you up **at** 5.*

*We're all going to be sleeping **at** midnight.*

Note that *at* is also used with such expressions as *at night*, *at weekend*, *at Christmas*, *at the moment*, *at present*, *at the same time*.

*Mr. Ruffus isn't available **at** the moment. May I take a message?*

b) *on* is used for days and dates.

*I'm meeting up with my friends **on** Saturday. And **on** Sunday morning I'm flying to Seattle.*

*Mike has the project presentation **on** 11 November.*

*My family does nothing **on** Christmas day.*

c) *in* denotes longer period of time like months, years, centuries etc.

*The Parkers are moving to Greece **in** March.*

*The story is set **in** the 80s.*

*Life **in** the Middle Ages wasn't like in a fairy tale. I don't know how people lived **in** the past!*

Note that *in* is also used with such phrases as *in the morning/afternoon/evening*.

*Theo is an owl. He has a hard time getting up **in** the mornings.*

Note that we do not use prepositions before *last/next/every/this*.

~~*I guess we'll see Alice on next Monday.*~~ *I guess we'll see Alice **next** Monday.*

### Short Story Dialogue

– *What does your summer look like?*

– *Well, I have my exams **in** June. I'll be studying **in** the mornings, **in** the afternoons, **in** the evenings...*

– *And **at** nights?*

– *No, not **at** nights. Nights are for sleeping only! I try not to mess up with my sleep schedule.*

– *That's a smart decision!*

– *Thanks! Then **in** a couple of weeks I'll be backpacking with my friends. We haven't done it **in** such a long time. And **on** 4 July I'll be at my parents'.*

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### Independent Practice - Prepositions of Time

#### 1) Fill in the gaps with *at*, *on*, *in*. Sometimes no preposition is needed.

- a. I don't like working out ..... the mornings. I'm super hungry after sleeping.
- b. Where will you be ..... New Year's Eve?
- c. Carol went to Spain ..... last July. And ..... this time she'll go to Portugal.
- d. My parents were born ..... the 60s.
- e. It rains a lot ..... winter here.
- f. I don't feel like going out ..... Friday evening.
- g. They're getting married ..... 27 August.
- h. Claudia lived in Peru ..... 2015.
- i. I don't want to do anything special ..... my birthday.
- j. Frank usually eats lunch ..... noon.

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### Independent Practice: Answers - Prepositions of Time

#### 1) Fill in the gaps with *at*, *on*, *in*. Sometimes no preposition is needed.

- a. I don't like working out **in** the mornings. I'm super hungry after sleeping.
- b. Where will you be **on** New Year's Eve?
- c. Carol went to Spain (-) **last** July. And (-) **this** time she'll go to Portugal.
- d. My parents were born **in** the 60s.
- e. It rains a lot **in** winter here.
- f. I don't feel like going out **on** Friday evening.
- g. They're getting married **on** 27 August.
- h. Claudia lived in Peru **in** 2015.
- i. I don't want to do anything special **on** my birthday.
- j. Frank usually eats lunch **at** noon.