

**IN – ON – AT**
**Time expressions with at**

specific times	at one o'clock / at 2:30pm
points of the day	at noon / at midday / at night / at midnight
points of the day when things happen	at breakfast / at dinner / at lunchtime
festivals and special days	at Easter, at Christmas
weekend	at the weekend

**Time expressions with on**

specific dates	on 3rd May
specific days	on Christmas Day/ on New Year's Eve
days of the week	on Monday / on Mondays

**Time expressions with in**

parts of the day	in the morning / in the afternoon / in the evening
seasons	in spring / in summer / in autumn / in winter
years	in 1996

## 51 Days, months, seasons

### A Time

There are:  
365 **days** in a year (a year which has 366 days is a **leap year**)  
12 **months** / **months** in a year  
7 **days** in a **week**  
2 **weeks** in a **fortnight**  
24 **hours** in a day  
60 **minutes** in an hour (we say an **hour** /'aʊə/)  
60 **seconds** in a minute  
100 years in a **century**

### B Days of the week

**Sunday** /'sʌndɪ/, **Monday** /'mʌndeɪ/, **Tuesday** /'tʷeɪzdeɪ/, **Wednesday** /'wenzdeɪ/, **Thursday** /'θɜ:zdeɪ/, **Friday**, **Saturday**

The names of the days always begin with a capital letter in English.  
Saturday + Sunday = **the weekend**



Monday (before 12 pm) = Monday **morning**  
Monday (between 12 pm and 6 pm) = Monday **afternoon**  
Monday (after 6 pm) = Monday **evening**

We say **on** + days of the week: on Monday, on Saturday, etc. I saw her **on Friday** / **on Tuesday evening**.

#### Common mistakes

We say **at** + the weekend. I went to the cinema **at the weekend** [NOT **in the weekend**].

### C Months and seasons

**Months:** January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

The names of the months always begin with a capital letter in English.

Some countries have four **seasons:** **spring**, **summer**, **autumn** /'ɒtəm/ and **winter**.



The names of the seasons do not usually begin with a capital letter in English.  
We say **in** + months / seasons: **in July**, **in December**, **in the spring**, **in the summer**, etc.  
Birds sing **in** the spring.

#### Common mistakes

My birthday is **in July** [NOT **on July**].

#### Tip

Write the day and date in English every ~~time~~ you do an English exercise, e.g. Wednesday 2nd May 2011.

## Exercises

### 51.1 Answer these questions.

- 24 hours = *one day* \_\_\_\_\_
- 100 years = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 weeks = \_\_\_\_\_
- 60 minutes = \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 days = \_\_\_\_\_

### 51.2 Complete this British children's song about the number of days in each month.

Thirty days has **S** *September*,  
A \_\_\_\_\_, J \_\_\_\_\_ and N \_\_\_\_\_  
All the rest have \_\_\_\_\_,  
Except for F \_\_\_\_\_,  
Which has twenty-eight days  
And \_\_\_\_\_ in each leap year.

### 51.3 These abbreviations are often used for the days of the week and the months. Write the names out in full.

- |                           |             |               |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 Mon <i>Monday</i> _____ | 5 Wed _____ | 9 Feb _____   |
| 2 Aug _____               | 6 Jan _____ | 10 Sept _____ |
| 3 Oct _____               | 7 Apr _____ | 11 Tues _____ |
| 4 Sat _____               | 8 Fri _____ | 12 Nov _____  |

### 51.4 What are the next letters in each of these? Why?

- S S *S* *the first letters of the four seasons: spring, summer, autumn, winter*
- S M T W \_\_\_\_\_
- J F M A M J J \_\_\_\_\_

### 51.5 Correct the six mistakes in this paragraph.

I'm going to a party **on** ~~at~~ <sup>on</sup> ~~Thursday~~ for Valentina's birthday. Her birthday is **on** ~~Thursday~~ <sup>on</sup> ~~but~~ she wanted to have the party **in** the weekend. She's having a barbecue. I think June is a **good** month to have a birthday because of the weather. I love going to barbecues **on** the summer. My birthday is **in** Winter and it's too cold to eat outside!

### 51.6 How quickly can you answer these quiz questions?

- How many minutes are there in a quarter of an hour?
- What is the third day of the week?
- How many seconds are there in five minutes?
- What is the seventh month?
- How many months are there in ten years?
- What month is your birthday in?
- What day is it today?
- What day will it be tomorrow?
- What day will it be the day after tomorrow?
- What day was it yesterday?
- What day was it the day before yesterday?
- What month is it?

## 52 Time words

### A Time in relation to now

**Now** means at this moment. **Then** means at another moment (usually in the past).  
I was born in Edinburgh. **Then** we moved to London. **Now** I live in Cambridge.



It is 10 o'clock now.  
I got up **four hours ago**, at 6 o'clock.  
**An hour ago** it was 9 o'clock.

**two years** for **two years**  
2014-2016 from 2014 to 2016  
**last year** / **last week** / **last Saturday**  
**next year** / **next week** / **next summer**

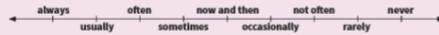
It is **July now**.  
Last month it was June.  
**Next month** it will be August.

When we talk about time in general, we talk about **the past**, **the present** and **the future**.

**In the past** people didn't have television.  
People may travel to Mars **in the future**.

JANUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### B Frequency adverbs



It **always** snows in Russia in winter.  
It **often** rains in the UK.  
The Ancient Romans **never** went to America or Australia.

### C Expressions

Notice the use of **a** in these expressions of frequency.  
**once** [one time] **a week**: I go swimming **once a week**, every Saturday.  
**twice** [two times] **a day**: I clean my teeth **twice a day**.  
**three times a year**: I see my uncle **three times a year**.  
**four times a month**: I play football **four or five times a month**.

I'll be with you **in a moment** [a very short time].  
Nora's in Paris **at the moment** [now].  
See you **soon** [in a short time]!  
We met **recently** [not long ago].

## Exercises

### 52.1 Fill the gaps with a preposition from the opposite page.

<sup>1</sup> **At** \_\_\_\_\_ the past, Rosa worked in many different countries. Rosa worked in Hong Kong  
<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ three years, <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 2008 <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 2011. <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the moment she  
is working in Tokyo. She will stay there <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ two more years.

### 52.2 Draw lines to match the centuries to their time.

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 the 19th century | _____ the past    |
| 2 the 22nd century | _____ the present |
| 3 the 18th century | _____ the future  |
| 4 the 21st century |                   |
| 5 the 20th century |                   |

### 52.3 Are these sentences true about you? If not, write them out correctly. Use other frequency adverbs from B opposite.

- I always go swimming on Fridays. *I sometimes go swimming on Fridays.*
- I usually go to school / work by bus.
- I occasionally watch TV.
- I rarely drink milk.
- I often wear a hat.
- I rarely eat chocolate.
- I always go to bed at 10.
- I never go to the theatre.

### 52.4 Read the sentences and answer the questions.

- Matthew will get his exam results very soon.  
Do you think Matthew will get them next year, next month or tomorrow? *Probably tomorrow*
- Alice and Adam met for the first time recently.  
Do you think they first met last year, six months ago or a week ago?
- I'll help you in a moment.  
Do you think I'll help you next week, in two hours or in a few minutes?
- It's 6 o'clock now.  
Two hours ago it started to snow. What time was it then?

### 52.5 Look at the table and write sentences using expressions like **once a week**, **three times a month**, etc.

John plays tennis **twice a week**.

	play tennis	practise the piano	have a business meeting in Germany
John	Mondays and Thursdays	Saturdays	the first Friday every month
Julia and Alexa	Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays	every morning and every evening	once in January, March, May, July, August and December every year

## Word Bank

# TIME and DATES



**Question:** *When are your classmates' birthdays? Ask for the month and day.*

### Ordinal Numbers

1 <sup>st</sup>	first
2 <sup>nd</sup>	second
3 <sup>rd</sup>	third
4 <sup>th</sup>	fourth
5 <sup>th</sup>	fifth
6 <sup>th</sup>	sixth
7 <sup>th</sup>	seventh
8 <sup>th</sup>	eighth
9 <sup>th</sup>	ninth
10 <sup>th</sup>	tenth
11 <sup>th</sup>	eleventh
12 <sup>th</sup>	twelfth
13 <sup>th</sup>	thirteenth
14 <sup>th</sup>	fourteenth
15 <sup>th</sup>	fifteenth
16 <sup>th</sup>	sixteenth
17 <sup>th</sup>	seventeenth
18 <sup>th</sup>	eighteenth
19 <sup>th</sup>	nineteenth
20 <sup>th</sup>	twentieth
21 <sup>st</sup>	twenty-first
22 <sup>nd</sup>	twenty-second
23 <sup>rd</sup>	twenty-third
24 <sup>th</sup>	twenty-fourth
25 <sup>th</sup>	twenty-fifth
26 <sup>th</sup>	twenty-sixth
27 <sup>th</sup>	twenty-seventh
28 <sup>th</sup>	twenty-eighth
29 <sup>th</sup>	twenty-ninth
30 <sup>th</sup>	thirtieth
31 <sup>st</sup>	thirty-first

### Months

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December

### Days

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

### Seasons

Spring
Summer
Autumn (U.K.) / Fall (U.S.A.)
Winter

### Time

1:00	one o'clock
2:00	two o'clock
3:00	three o'clock
4:00	four o'clock
5:00	five o'clock
6:00	six o'clock
7:00	seven o'clock
8:00	eight o'clock
9:00	nine o'clock
10:00	ten o'clock
11:00	eleven o'clock
12:00	noon / midnight
1:05	five after one
1:15	quarter after one
1:30	one thirty
	half past one
1:45	quarter to two
1:55	five to two

### Measurements of Time

second
minute
hour
day
week
weekend
month
year
decade
century