

107 Prepositions of time

Prepositions of time are often used to talk about schedules and routines. They give information about when something happens, and how long it lasts.

See also:

Present perfect continuous 12
Prepositions 105

107.1 "ON"

"On" is often used before days of the week to say when something happens.

I work **on** Mondays.

In US English the preposition can be left out.

"-s" can be added to the day of the week to show that the thing happens regularly on that day.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

The library is closed **on** Sundays.



I'm going shopping **on** Saturday.



I have orchestra practice **on** Fridays.



I'll visit my grandparents **on** Monday.



107.2 "AT"

"At" is usually used to express what time something happens.

I leave the house **at** 8am.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

They are meeting **at** 1 o'clock.



I have an appointment **at** 7 o'clock.



I have a yoga class **at** lunchtime.



I get the bus **at** half past 8.



107.3 "ON" AND "AT" WITH "THE WEEKEND"

When talking about the weekend, US English uses "on," whereas UK English uses "at."



I watch TV { **on** } **at** the weekend.

"On the weekend" is more common in the US.

"At the weekend" is more common in the UK.

107.4 "IN"

"In" has a similar meaning as "during" and is used before months, years, seasons, and general times of day, e.g. "morning" and "afternoon."

I go to the gym **in** the morning.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

I usually watch TV **in** the evening.



She's going to Europe **in** June.



I was born **in** 1973.



I enjoy gardening **in** summer.



107.5 "PAST" AND "TO"

"Past" and "to" are prepositions of time that are mainly used when telling the time.

"Past" means "after the hour."

It's twenty **past** seven.



"To" means "until the hour."

It's twenty **to** seven.



107.6 PREPOSITIONS SHOWING DURATION

"From... to..." or "between... and..." are used to say when an activity starts and finishes.

"From" is used to say the time something starts.

I work **from** 9am **to** 5pm.



9AM

"To" is used to say the time something finishes.

"Between" is used to say the time something starts.

I work **between** 9am **and** 5pm.



5PM

"And" is used to say the time something finishes.

"Until" can be used to say when an ongoing situation finishes.

"UNTIL" + TIME OR DATE

I will be working **until** five o'clock.



9AM

5PM

"Since" can be used to say when an ongoing situation started.

"SINCE" + TIME OR DATE

I have been working **since** 9am.



9AM

NOW

"For" can be used to express how long something has been happening.

"FOR" + QUANTITY OF TIME

I have been working **for** six hours.



6 HOURS AGO



NOW

"During" can be used to express when something was happening, rather than how long it went on for.

I relaxed **during** my break.



BREAK



NOW