

Time expressions with in, on, at

There are three prepositions in English that are used with time **in, at, on**. Generally, **in** shows the “largest” time or place, **on** shows dates and time, and **at** usually shows the “smallest” time or place.

Preposition	Time	Example
At Use at with times	at 12:00	Brad usually eats lunch at 12:00 .
Other common expressions with at	at night	They often go out at night .
	at Christmas (during a period of time around Christmas, for example, December 23rd-28th)	We visit our family and friends at Christmas .
	at the age of...	I moved to California at the age of two .
On Use on with dates and days	on January 18th	Pedro's birthday is on January 18th .
	on Saturday evenings	We usually stay go out on Saturday evenings .
	on Christmas day (on December 25th)	We have a special meal on Christmas day .
In Use in + a period of time = a time in the future	in a few minutes	The bus will be leaving in a few minutes .
	in five weeks also: in five weeks' time	I learned to ride a bicycle in five weeks . We will start summer vacation in five weeks' time .
Use in for longer periods of time	in the 1960s	The astronauts explored the moon in the 1960s .
	in the 20th century	Automobiles and airplanes became very popular in the 20th century .
	in December	In December , you will study less.
	in 2010	The Winter Olympics were held in Vancouver in 2010 .

Note: Do not use in/at/on before “next” or “last”

We will get married **next** year.

Their baby was born **last** March.

Exercise:

Choose the correct answer for each sentence using the prepositions “in, on, at”:

<https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/490/grammar/prepositions-time-in-at-on/>

- 1) Gabriel and I always go out to a movie ----- our wedding anniversary.
- 2) Chris sees his family once a year, usually ----- Christmas.
- 3) Maya said that she might not be home ----- the morning, but she will be home ---- the afternoon.
- 4) My dad gets paid ----- the end of the month.
- 5) The book was so interesting that I read it ----- a day.
- 6) In many countries, there are a lot of parties ----- New Year's Eve.
- 7) Gabriel got married ----- 50, which is older than the average man.
- 8) We often walk the dogs in the park ----- Sundays.
- 9) Our taxes will increase by 2% ----- January.
- 10) The class starts ----- September 6th and ends ----- December 7th.