

28 Prepositions of time (in, on, at, from, to)

1 When we talk about time we often use the prepositions **in**, **on** or **at**.

► We use **in** with parts of the day, and with months, seasons, and years:

in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening

*in January, in February, in March
in the spring, in the summer, in the autumn, in the winter*

in 1542, in 1868, in 1995

► We use **on** with days and dates:

on Wednesday, on Thursday evening

on Christmas Day, on her birthday

*on April 9th (We say **On** April the ninth or **On** the ninth of April.)*

► We use **at** for times of the day, and with meals and mealtimes:

at 11 a.m., at three o'clock

at breakfast, at lunch-time, at tea-time, at dinner

We also say:

at night, at the weekend

at Christmas, at Easter

2 The following words can replace **in**, **on** and **at**:

this next last every

*I'm going home { in April.
this April.*

*I'm playing tennis { on Wednesday.
next Wednesday.*

*She left { at the weekend.
last weekend.*

*He visits Jane { on Saturday.
every Saturday.*

3 We can use **from ... to** to talk about time:



The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Here are some more examples:

She's staying here from Sunday to Tuesday.

We have a tea-break from three-thirty to four o'clock.

Sometimes, we use **from** on its own:

I will be in Paris from Wednesday.

Monday Tuesday Wednesday
in Paris

Practice

A Fill the gaps in the following sentences with **in**, **on** or **at**.

0 I went to Turkey in July.

5 I was born _____ 1970.

1 We must leave _____ five o'clock.

6 I never work _____ the weekend.

2 We'll have a break _____ the afternoon.

7 We can play tennis _____ the summer.

3 She's arriving _____ Monday.

8 School starts _____ September 5th.

4 It's very cold here _____ night.

9 I'll see you _____ lunch-time.

B Fill in the gaps in this conversation using words from the box.

two o'clock ~~summer~~ 1990 winter weekend Saturday birthday

Anne: Are you going on holiday in the ⁰ ~~summer~~ _____?

Tom: No, but I went skiing in Italy in the ¹ _____, and I'm going to America at the ² _____. I'll be in New York on ³ _____; then I'm travelling south to Texas. What about you? Are you going away this year?

Anne: Yes. In fact, I'm flying to Morocco at ⁴ _____ tomorrow.

Tom: Really? It's a wonderful country. I was there in ⁵ _____.

Anne: Just think! I'll be on a Moroccan beach on my ⁶ _____!

C In these sentences there are some mistakes. Sometimes the underlined prepositions are wrong. Sometimes the prepositions are not necessary. Cross out the prepositions which are wrong and replace them if necessary. Put a tick (✓) if the preposition is correct.

- 0 I normally go to the south of France on in _____ the winter. I usually go in ✓ _____ December, but in _____ last December I couldn't go because my wife was ill.
- 1 We'll leave at _____ eleven o'clock in _____ Saturday morning.
- 2 Shall we visit George in Spain in _____ next April?
- 3 I always drink two cups of coffee on _____ breakfast. In _____ the afternoon I drink tea. I drink hot milk in _____ night before I go to bed.
- 4 They play golf on _____ every Tuesday in _____ the summer.
- 5 I gave her a painting on _____ her birthday at _____ June this year.
- 6 Shall we go to the cinema in _____ this evening? The film starts at _____ eight.

D Here are your arrangements for the next few days (*today, this week*), and for the next few months (*in December, next year*).

0 (play /golf) → the afternoon	5 (visit/Egypt) → December
1 (meet /Steve) → Wednesday morning	6 (sell /my house) → January 10th
2 (go/to the bank) → 10 a.m. on Friday	7 (go/to Mexico) → the spring
3 (go/sailing) → the weekend	8 (learn/to ski) → April
4 (start/a new job) → next Monday	9 (buy /a new boat) → next year

Write sentences using the table above. Use the Present Continuous (*I'm doing*), and a preposition (*in, on* etc.) if necessary.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 0 I'm <u>playing</u> golf in the afternoon. | 5 _____ |
| 1 I _____ | 6 _____ |
| 2 I _____ | 7 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 8 _____ |
| 4 _____ | 9 _____ |

E Use the information in brackets to finish the sentences.

- 0 (2 → 3) The shop is closed from 2 to 3.
- 0 (Friday →) She will be on holiday from Friday.
- 1 (June → August) The beach is busy _____
- 2 (10 o'clock →) I'll be at the sports centre _____
- 3 (March →) The new motorway will be open _____
- 4 (Monday → Friday) We work _____
- 5 (1991 → 1994) He lived in Kenya _____
- 6 (January →) She will be in Hong Kong _____