

Prepositions

A preposition is a word that links verbs, nouns (or pronouns) together. There are ~80 of them in English.

e.g. I go to sleep **at** 10 p.m.

- I
- go to sleep ← verb
- at ← preposition
- 10 p.m. ← noun

Usually a preposition is used before a noun and after a verb



Can you think of some examples related to ***time***?

Connecting to time

Each preposition has limits on what it can link ...

... but each preposition has different links 😞

e.g.

- It rained on Tuesday  ***on*** connects to a day
- It rained **on** 10 o'clock  ***on*** doesn't connect to an exact time

Some common time-based prepositions

Preposition	Time Categories
at	clock times, exact times of day, night, holiday periods
in	months, years, morning / afternoon / evening, seasons, centuries, eras
on	days, dates, holidays, weekends, days+morning/afternoon/evening

Some examples with “at”

At --- clock times, exact times of day, night, holiday periods

- It was raining at my wedding
- The bird sings loudest at 12:00 noon
- Santa Claus can't go on holiday at Christmas
- The sun rises at 5:32 a.m. today

Some examples with “in”

In --- months, years, morning / afternoon / evening, seasons, centuries, eras

- I had Covid in 2021
- I’m getting married in the morning
- The Queen’s having a party in June
- Jesus lived on earth in the first century
- The coldest weather is in winter

Some examples with “on”

On --- days, dates, holidays, weekends, days+morning / afternoon / evening

- Santa Claus fell down my chimney on Friday
- Our Conversation Club meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.
- I was given a big present on my birthday
- We were married on 29th March
- The SBC service is on Sunday morning

Complete the following

1. Jane is arriving January 26 2 o'clock the afternoon.
2. It snows here every year December. We always go outside and play in the snow Christmas Day.
3. Michael is arriving today noon.
4. Frankie started working for her law firm 1995. I think she started June.
5. Joe began working on the project last week.

Use
Nothing
• In
• On
• At
• In the
• On the
• At the

Complete the following

1. Jane is arriving **on** January 26 **at** 2 o'clock **in** the afternoon.
2. It snows here every year **in** December. We always go outside and play in the snow **on** Christmas Day.
3. Michael is arriving [*nothing*] today at noon.
4. Frankie started working for her law firm **in** 1995. I think she started **in** June.
5. Joe began working on the project [*nothing*] / **in the** last week.

Complete the following

6. Normally, New Year's Eve, it's tradition to kiss the one you love midnight.
7. Don't be ridiculous; there were no telephones seventeenth century! The telephone was invented 1870s.
8. The plane leaves tomorrow morning 8:00 AM.
9. The hills here are covered with wildflowers early spring.
10. The conference begins Friday 2 PM, and it will end next Monday.

Use
Nothing

- In
- On
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Complete the following

6. Normally, **on** New Year's Eve, it's tradition to kiss the one you love **at** midnight.
7. Don't be ridiculous; there were no telephones **in the** seventeenth century! The telephone was invented **in the** 1870s.
8. The plane leaves [*nothing*] tomorrow morning **at** 8:00 AM.
9. The hills here are covered with wildflowers **in** [*the*] early spring.
10. The conference begins **on** Friday **at** 2 PM, and it will end [*nothing*] / **on the** next Monday.

