

Grammar

14^a

prepositions of time, place and movement

prepositions in time phrases

The following are the main prepositions which we use in time phrases:

preposition	used with	examples
at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clock times, points of time in the day weekends and holiday periods points in time 	<i>at nine o'clock; at 6.35</i> <i>at midnight, at noon, at dawn, at lunch time, at dinner time, at night</i> <i>at the weekend, at weekends, at Christmas, at Easter; at Ramadan, at the beginning, at the end, at last, at the moment, at present, at the time, at times</i>
in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the main parts of the day months, years, seasons, centuries events which will happen at the end of a period at a point in time during a period 	<i>in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening</i> <i>in March, in 1999, in the autumn, in the twentieth century</i> <i>in an hour, in a couple of minutes, in a week, in a moment</i> ✗ I'll be back until in an hour. ✓ I'll be back in an hour. <i>in the beginning, in the end</i> <i>in the night, in the evening, in a day</i>
on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> specific dates and days 	<i>on August 8, on Tuesday, on Wednesday, on weekdays, on New Year's Day, on Christmas Day, on the day of departure / arrival, on Wednesday morning, on a fine sunny day</i>

on time or in time?

- *On time* means 'not late, at the time expected':
*The Intercity express always leaves **on time** so it doesn't get there late.*
- We can use *right*, *dead* or *bang* with *on time* to emphasize that it is exactly at the right time:
*The train arrived **right on time**.*
*I finished my essay **dead on time**.*
*Be **bang on time** or we'll have to leave without you.*
- *In time* means 'early enough':
*We got there **in time** to see most of the film but we missed the beginning.*
*Hurry and we'll be there **in time** for lunch.*

at the end or in the end?

- *At the end* is a prepositional phrase usually followed by a noun; it refers to the final point or part:
***At the end** of the book, they get married.*
***At the end** of the century, there were still too many people without food to eat.*
- *At the end* is also an adverb which refers to the point at which something occurs:
*You can check your answers **at the end**.*
- *In the end* is a link phrase and means 'finally, after a long time':
***In the end**, we found a taxi and arrived at the theatre on time.*
*She thought about it for some time and, **in the end**, she decided to go to America.*