



Presentation

Use the prepositions *in, on, and at* to talk about time and place.

	time	place
in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> parts of the day: <i>in the morning/afternoon/evening</i> weeks: <i>in two weeks, in the second week of August</i> months: <i>in August</i> years: <i>in 2012</i> seasons: <i>in the summer / in summer</i> centuries: <i>in the 20th century</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> when we mean <i>inside</i> something: <i>in the house, in the car</i> with towns, regions, countries, continents: <i>in London, in Texas, in France, in Africa</i> common expressions: <i>in school, in a book, in the front/middle/back, in prison, in hospital</i>
on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> days: <i>on Saturday, on the weekend</i> dates: <i>on January 1st</i> special days: <i>on her birthday, on Christmas Day</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> surfaces of objects: <i>on the table, on the wall</i> floors of a building: <i>on the fifth floor</i> roads and water: <i>on the motorway</i> types of scheduled or public transportation: <i>on the bus, on the midday train</i> attached objects: <i>the note is on the fridge, a leaf on a tree</i> common expressions: <i>on a farm, on a train, on the plane, on the phone, on the TV</i>
at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> times of the day: <i>at 10 a.m., at noon, at night</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a point in a journey: <i>We stopped at a pub for lunch.</i> events with groups of people: <i>at a party, at a meeting</i> addresses: <i>at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.</i> common expressions: <i>at home, at school, at work, at the front/back/side</i>

in or *at*?

With locations such as buildings, we use *in* to emphasize the location: *He's in the library.* (He's inside the library.)
 You use *at* to emphasize the activity that takes place there: *He's doing some research at the library.*

TIP In everyday English you don't normally include prepositions of time and place in the question form:

Say *What year was she born?* (don't say *What year was she born in?*)

Say *What day is your birthday?* (don't say *What day is your birthday on?*)

Say *What time does it open?* (don't say *What time does it open at?*)

1 Complete these sentences with a preposition of time (*in, on, or at*).

- 1 We like to eat outside the evenings.
- 2 In my opinion, the motor car caused the biggest change the twentieth century.
- 3 I was born 11:15 the morning.
- 4 the spring we like to walk in the park and smell the flowers.
- 5 I'll be with my family Christmas.
- 6 I'll be with my family New Year's Day.
- 7 President Barack Obama was born 1961.
- 8 I won't be at school Monday.
- 9 Long hair was very fashionable 1973.
- 10 We always like to take a short vacation April.

2 Where are these people? Write full sentences with the verb *to be* + a preposition of place (*in, on, or at*).



- 1 he / a party
- 2 they / the fifth floor
- 3 the tourist / Australia
- 4 the cars / highway
- 5 my dog / the garden
- 6 Madge and Ron / their wedding

He's at a party.

3 Which lines in this conversation need a preposition (*in, on, or at*)? Add any necessary prepositions.

A: 1 What time does the show begin? ✓

B: 2 It starts ^{at} seven thirty.

A: 3 When are the others coming?

B: 4 They're all meeting Felicity's house.

A: 5 Are they coming her car?

B: 6 No, they're coming the subway.

A: 7 I hope they aren't late for the main part of the show.

B: 8 Oh! There's a message my phone from Felicity.

A: 9 Where are they?

B: 10 They're the building now.