



### Presentation

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

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

### *in* or *at*?

With locations such as buildings, we use *in* to emphasise the location: *He's in the library.* (He's inside the library.)  
 You use *at* to emphasise 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:

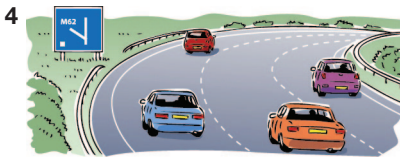
Say *What year was she born?* (don't say *What year was she born in?*)

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 ..... New Year.
- 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 holiday ..... 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 / motorway
- 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. Then listen and check.**

A: 1 What time does the show begin? ✓

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

B: 2 It starts <sup>at</sup> seven thirty.

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

A: 3 When are the others coming?

A: 9 Where are they?

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

B: 10 They're the building now.

A: 5 Are they coming her car?

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