

**A**Compare **at**, **on** and **in**:

- ☐ They arrived **at 5 o'clock**.
- ☐ They arrived **on Friday**.
- ☐ They arrived **in June**. / They arrived **in 2012**.

We use:

**at** for the time of day**at five o'clock    at 11.45    at midnight    at lunchtime    at sunset    etc.****on** for days and dates**on Friday / on Fridays    on 16 May 2012    on New Year's Day    on my birthday****in** for longer periods (months/years/seasons etc.)**in June    in 2012    in the 1990s    in the 20th century    in the past    in winter****B**

We say:

**at the moment / at the minute / at present / at this time** (= now):

- ☐ Can we talk later? I'm busy **at the moment**.

**at the same time**

- ☐ Kate and I arrived **at the same time**.

**at the weekends / at weekends** (or **on the weekend / on weekends** in American English):

- ☐ Will you be here **at the weekend?** (or ... **on the weekend**)

**at Christmas** (but **on Christmas Day**)

- ☐ Do you give each other presents **at Christmas?**

**at night** (= during nights in general), **in the night** (= during a particular night):

- ☐ I don't like working **at night**. but I was woken up by a noise **in the night**.

**C**

We say:

**in the morning(s)***but***in the afternoon(s)****in the evening(s)****on Friday morning(s)****on Sunday afternoon(s)****on Monday evening(s)** etc.

- ☐ I'll see you **in the morning**.
- ☐ Do you work **in the evenings?**

- ☐ I'll see you **on Friday morning**.
- ☐ Do you work **on Saturday evenings?**

**D**We do not use **at/on/in** before **last/next/this/every**:

- ☐ I'll see you **next Friday**. (not on next Friday)
- ☐ They got married **last June**.

We often leave out **on** before days. So you can say:

- ☐ I'll see you **on Friday**. or I'll see you **Friday**.
- ☐ I don't work **on Monday mornings**. or I don't work **Monday mornings**.

**E**We say that something will happen **in a few minutes / in six months** etc. :

- ☐ The train will be leaving **in a few minutes**. (= a few minutes from now)
- ☐ Andy has gone away. He'll be back **in a week**. (= a week from now)
- ☐ They'll be here **in a moment**. (= a moment from now, very soon)

We also use **in ...** to say how long it takes to do something:

- ☐ I learnt to drive **in four weeks**. (= it took me four weeks to learn)

## Exercises

121.1 Put in **at**, **on** or **in**.

- 1 Mozart was born in Salzburg in 1756.
- 2 I've been invited to a wedding ..... 14 February.
- 3 Amy's birthday is ..... May, but I don't know which date.
- 4 This park is popular and gets very busy ..... weekends.
- 5 I haven't seen Kate for a few days. I last saw her ..... Tuesday.
- 6 Jonathan is 63. He'll be retiring from his job ..... two years.
- 7 I'm busy right now. I'll be with you ..... a moment.
- 8 Sam isn't here ..... the moment, but he'll be here this afternoon.
- 9 There are usually a lot of parties ..... New Year's Eve.
- 10 I don't like the dark. I try to avoid going out ..... night.
- 11 It rained very hard ..... the night. Did you hear it?
- 12 My car is being repaired at the garage. It will be ready ..... two hours.
- 13 The bus station was busy. A lot of buses were leaving ..... the same time.
- 14 Helen and David always go out for dinner ..... their wedding anniversary.
- 15 It was a short book and easy to read. I read it ..... a day.
- 16 ..... midday, the sun is at its highest point in the sky.
- 17 This building is very old. It was built ..... the fifteenth century.
- 18 The office is closed ..... Wednesday afternoons.
- 19 In the UK many people go home to see their families ..... Christmas.
- 20 My flight arrives ..... 5 o'clock ..... the morning.
- 21 The course begins ..... 7 January and ends sometime ..... April.
- 22 I might not be at home ..... Tuesday morning, but I'll be there ..... the afternoon.

121.2 Complete the sentences. Use **at**, **on** or **in** + the following:

the evening	about 20 minutes	<del>1756</del>	the same time	the 1920s
the moment	21 July 1969	night	Saturdays	11 seconds

- 1 Mozart was born in 1756 .....
- 2 If the sky is clear, you can see the stars .....
- 3 After working hard during the day, I like to relax .....
- 4 Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon .....
- 5 It's difficult to listen if everyone is speaking .....
- 6 Jazz became popular in the United States .....
- 7 I'm just going out to the shop. I'll be back .....
- 8 I don't think we need an umbrella. It's not raining .....
- 9 Ben is a very fast runner. He can run 100 metres .....
- 10 Lisa works from Monday to Friday. Sometimes she also works .....

121.3 Which is correct: **a**, **b**, or **both** of them?

- |  |                                      |             |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 a I'll see you on Friday.            | b I'll see you Friday.               | <u>both</u> |
| 2 a I'll see you on next Friday.       | b I'll see you next Friday.          | <u>b</u>    |
| 3 a Paul got married in April.         | b Paul got married April.            | .....       |
| 4 a I play tennis on Sunday mornings.  | b I play tennis Sunday mornings.     | .....       |
| 5 a We were ill at the same time.      | b We were ill in the same time.      | .....       |
| 6 a What are you doing at the weekend? | b What are you doing on the weekend? | .....       |
| 7 a Oliver was born at 10 May 1993.    | b Oliver was born on 10 May 1993.    | .....       |
| 8 a He left school last June.          | b He left school in last June.       | .....       |
| 9 a Will you be here on Tuesday?       | b Will you be here Tuesday?          | .....       |
| 10 a I don't like driving in night.    | b I don't like driving at night.     | .....       |