

A on time and in time

on time = punctual, not late

If something happens **on time**, it happens at the time that was planned:

- ☐ The 11.45 train left **on time**. (= it left at 11.45)
- ☐ Please be **on time**. Don't be late.
- ☐ The conference was well-organised. Everything began and finished **on time**.

in time (for something / to do something) = soon enough

- ☐ Will you be home **in time for dinner**? (= soon enough for dinner)
- ☐ I sent Amy a birthday present. I hope it arrives **in time**.
(= on or before her birthday)
- ☐ I'm in a hurry. I want to get home **in time to watch** the game on TV.
(= soon enough to see the game)

The opposite of **in time** is **too late**:

- ☐ I got home **too late** to watch the game on TV.

You can say **just in time** (= almost too late):

- ☐ We got to the station **just in time** for our train.
- ☐ A child ran into the road in front of the car, but I managed to stop **just in time**.

B at the end and in the end

at the end (of something) = at the time when something ends

For example:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| at the end of the month | at the end of January | at the end of the game |
| at the end of the film | at the end of the course | at the end of the concert |
- ☐ I'm going away **at the end of January / at the end of the month**.
 - ☐ **At the end of the concert**, everyone applauded.
 - ☐ The players shook hands **at the end of the game**.

We do not say 'in the end of ...'. For example, we do not say 'in the end of January'.

The opposite of **at the end** is **at the beginning**:

- ☐ I'm going away **at the beginning of January**. (*not* in the beginning)

in the end = finally

We use **in the end** when we say what the final result of a situation was:

- ☐ We had a lot of problems with our car. We sold it **in the end**. (= finally we sold it)
- ☐ He got more and more angry. **In the end** he just walked out of the room.
- ☐ Alan couldn't decide where to go for his holidays. He didn't go anywhere **in the end**.
(*not* at the end)

The opposite of **in the end** is **at first**:

- ☐ **At first** we didn't get on very well, but **in the end** we became good friends.

Exercises

122.1 Complete the sentences with **on time** or **in time**.

- The bus is usually on time, but it was late this morning.
- The film was supposed to start at 8.30, but it didn't begin
- The train service isn't very good. The trains are rarely
- We nearly missed our train. We got to the station just
- We want to start the meeting, so please don't be late.
- I've just washed this shirt. I want to wear it this evening, so I hope it will be dry
- I almost forgot that it was Joe's birthday. Fortunately I remembered
- Why are you never? You always keep everybody waiting.
- It is hoped that the new stadium will be ready for the tournament later this year.

122.2 Read the situations and make sentences using **just in time**.

- A child ran into the road in front of your car. You saw the child at the last moment.
(manage / stop) I managed to stop just in time.
- You were walking home. Just after you got home, it started to rain very heavily.
(get / home) I
- Your friend was going to sit on the chair you had just painted. You said, 'Don't sit on that chair!', so he didn't. (stop / him) I
- You and a friend went to the cinema. You were late, and you thought you would miss the beginning of the film. But the film began just as you sat down in the cinema.
(get / cinema / beginning / film)
We

122.3 Complete the sentences using **at the end** + the following:

the course ~~the game~~ the interview the month the race

- The players shook hands at the end of the game
- I get paid
- The students had a party
- Two of the runners collapsed
- I was surprised when I was offered the job

122.4 Write sentences with **in the end**. Use the verb in brackets.

- We had a lot of problems with our car. (sell) In the end we sold it.
- Anna got more and more fed up with her job.
(resign)
- I tried to learn Japanese, but I found it too difficult.
(give up)
- We couldn't decide whether to go to the party or not.
(not / go)

122.5 Put in **at** or **in**.

- I'm going away at the end of the month.
- It took Gary a long time to find work. the end he got a job as a bus driver.
- I couldn't decide what to buy Amy for her birthday. I didn't buy her anything the end.
- I'm going away the end of this week.
- We waited ages for a bus. the end we had to get a taxi.
- the end of the lesson, all the students left the classroom.
- We had a few problems at first, but the end everything was OK.
- You were in a difficult position. What did you do the end?
- The journey took a very long time, but we got there the end.
- Are you going away the beginning of August or the end?