

UNIT 107 Prepositions of time (1)

The preposition **at**, **in** and **on** are most often used with times.

*The annual conference is starting **on** Monday, May 15th **at** three o'clock **in** the afternoon.*

A

The preposition **at** is used in particular with:

- timetables.

*The last bus leaves at 11.30.
The lessons start at 8.45.*

- certain times or parts of the day: **at dawn / at sunrise, at sunset, at midday / at noon, at midnight, at night, at breakfast, at lunchtime / dinnertime / teatime.**

*The view of the lake is wonderful at sunrise.
Let's meet at lunchtime tomorrow.*

- festive periods, such as **at Christmas, at Easter, at the weekend** (also: **on the weekend**).

*We sometimes go skiing at Christmas.
What do you usually do at the weekend?*

B

The preposition **in** is used with:

- other parts of the day: **in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening.**

I prefer studying in the evening.

- months: *The school year in Italy starts in September.*
- years: *I was born in 1975. Shakespeare died in 1616.*
- centuries: *in the 18th century, in the 21st century*

C

The preposition **on** is used:

- with dates that are expressed with the day.

I was born on 18th November.

- with the days of the week, even when a noun referring to a part of the day follows.

*on Monday, on Friday, on weekdays
I'm leaving for Manchester on Tuesday night.*

- when nouns referring to parts of the day are preceded by one or more adjectives.

*On a cold winter morning...
On a dark rainy night...*

The days and parts of the day are expressed in the plural form when we want to indicate that something happens regularly on that certain day.

I usually go out on Fridays / on Friday nights.

D

Compare the expressions:

- **on time** (on that set time) / **in time** (not late)
- **at the end of...** (the month, the year...) / **in the end** (opposite of: **at first**)

Student's notes
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**EXERCISES**Prepositions of time (1) **UNIT 107**

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L TIME: -

107.1 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition. Choose between *at*, *on* or *in*.

- 1 The film stars arrived in Cannes ten o'clock last night.
- 2 We went to a great party Saturday. Lots of celebrities were there.
- 3 The first time I went to Hollywood was 2008.
- 4 My sister was born 1st November 1999.
- 5 Is your birthday January?
- 6 We arrived just time to see the beginning of the play.
- 7 The singer of the group was still chatting in the hotel lounge three o'clock the morning.
- 8 We want to go to the Venice film festival the end of August.

107.2 Complete the text with the preposition *at*, *on* and *in*.

(1)..... five o'clock (2)..... Tuesday morning, I was woken up by a terrible noise outside. I had got back from a business trip (3)..... midnight and had hoped for a proper night's sleep.
 (4)..... breakfast, I asked my family what was going on. My brother said that (5)..... Monday they'd started working with a drill (6)..... dawn, and that they were still drilling when he'd come back home late (7)..... the afternoon. He thought it was in one of the neighbours' houses. I went to the office and didn't think about it any more.
 (8)..... about eight o'clock (9)..... the evening, a neighbour called to ask if we could stop drilling, as he wanted some peace. We told him we weren't drilling at all and he said that none of the other neighbours was. Only a few days later did we discover that the developers had taken over the block of flats opposite (10)..... the beginning of the month, and contractors had been called in to do renovation work.

107.3 Match the two parts of the sentences.

1 2 3 4 5 6

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 I always get up at | a February. |
| 2 Peter never works in | b Friday evenings. |
| 3 I like to go abroad at | c breakfast time. |
| 4 Jane often goes out on | d the morning. |
| 5 We always drink tea at | e seven o'clock in the morning. |
| 6 I met him first in | f Christmas. |

107.4 Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 We start work on the firm **at / on** three o'clock sharp.
- 2 Please be **in / on** time for the start of the film premiere.
- 3 **At the end / In the end**, we went to see Arctic Monkeys not Keane.
- 4 I ran all the way and was just **in / on** time to see Johnny Depp.
- 5 We're going to Hollywood **at the end / in the end** of March.
- 6 **At first / At the first**, I didn't realise it was Sir Elton John.

107.5 Complete the sentences using the correct preposition and the relevant personal information.

- 1 I was born (month)
- 2 I was born (year)
- 3 I was born (clock time)
- 4 I was born (part of the day)
- 5 I was born (season)

Teacher's observations

UNIT 108 Prepositions of time (2)

The following prepositions of time indicate the duration of an action or of an event.

A

- **from... to / till...** and **between... and...** indicate the start and finish of an action; they are usually followed by times, days, months, year.

Working hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mr Robson will be in Chicago between the 19th and 21st this month.

B

- **during** and **throughout** indicate a period of time and are usually followed by the nouns **day, night, week, month, year, morning, afternoon, evening** or by the seasons.

I travel a lot during the summer.

It's warm and sunny throughout the year.

C

- **for** indicates the duration of an action or event, which is expressed with a period of time, e.g. **two hours, three weeks, four months...**

I've been working for three hours.

I really deserve a cup of tea!



For three hours



NOW

- **since** indicates the moment an action started, e.g. **seven o'clock, Tuesday, 2005...**

I've been working since two o'clock.

I deserve a cup of tea now!



Since 2 o'clock

NOW

For and **since** are usually found in sentences with the present perfect simple or continuous (see p.89), as they refer to actions that started in the past but that continue in the present.

D

- **before** and **after** are usually followed by a time, date, festivity or by a verb in the **-ing** form.

Students should hand in their projects before the end of May.

Visitors are not admitted after six o'clock.

Why don't we have dinner together after playing tennis?

E

- **till / until** indicate the end of an action.

Do you have to work till / until seven every day?

- **by** is usually followed by a precise moment in time (timetable, day, date...) in which a specific action will be concluded.

The goods have to be delivered by 30th April.

I have to be back home by 11 o'clock tonight.

F

- **in / within** are followed by a period of time in which a specific action will be concluded. **Within** is usually used in more formal contexts.

John is coming back from Canada in a week / in a week's time.

Please settle the invoice within 60 days from delivery of the goods.

Student's notes

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EXERCISES

Prepositions of time (2) UNIT 108

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR TIME: -

108.1 Complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first one. Use the prepositions in brackets.

- 1 Our office hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(between) Our office is
- 2 My lost wallet could be anywhere from Oxford to Cambridge.
(between) My lost wallet could be anywhere
- 3 The magician asked me to think of a number between one and 20.
(from) The magician said, 'Think
- 4 My boss said he'd be in the States from January to April.
(between) My boss said he'd be
- 5 Lizzie worked in Africa between 1995 and 2002.
(from) Lizzie worked
- 6 My sister has exams from today until Thursday.
(between) My sister has exams

108.2 Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 I have lived in Leeds **for / since** three years.
- 2 Paul has been having piano lessons **for / since** six months.
- 3 I've liked Oasis **for / since** last year, when I first saw them live in Manchester.
- 4 We've only seen two films **for / since** Christmas.
- 5 I've been watching David Beckham play **for / since** years.
- 6 I've only been interested in blues music **for / since** August.
- 7 They've been waiting **for / since** a very long time.
- 8 The Oscars for outstanding film achievements have been awarded **for / since** 1929.

108.3 Complete the sentences using the prepositions in the box.

during before by until within after

- 1 We only come to Venice the film festival to see the stars.
- 2 The teacher wants me to finish that project the next week.
- 3 I'll give you six o'clock to bring me the report.
- 4 Just three days her marriage, she was still trying to organise the wedding reception.
- 5 If you've not made it in Hollywood the time you're 25, you'll never make it.
- 6 If you can stay on the match, I'll introduce you to Nadal and Federer.

108.4 Match the two parts of the sentences.

1 2 3 4 5 6

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 The actors have been rehearsing | a during the Berlin film festival. |
| 2 We're having dinner with the director | b until it came to my town. |
| 3 The audience must be in their seats | c before the film starts. |
| 4 Turn off your mobile phone | d since three o'clock. |
| 5 I visited the city | e after the play. |
| 6 I didn't see the play | f by six o'clock. |

Teacher's observations

UNIT 109 Prepositions indicating place and position (1)

Prepositions indicating place and position express where a person or object is. They always follow verbs of state, e.g. **be, stay, live, lie, stop, sit** and **stand**. They are frequently used to describe places using **there is / there are, there was / there were**.

A

The preposition **in** is used to indicate that something or someone is:

- inside a confined area.
They are still in the garden.
- in a street/road or in a city.
I live in Cliff Lane in Leeds.
- In a specific geographical position.
Milan is in the north of Italy.



IN

Sometimes the preposition **in** can be substituted by **inside**.

There must be someone inside that old house.

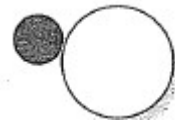
Remember the expressions: **in bed, in hospital, in town, in the country(side), in the mountains, in the newspaper, in the rain, in the sun.**

B

The preposition **at** is used to indicate that something or someone is:

- near a confined area, not necessarily inside (**at the cinema, at the pub, at the park...**) or in a non-confined area (**at the bus stop, at the door, at the traffic lights...**).
There an old pub at the end of the road.
Turn right at the traffic lights.
- in street / road and the street number is indicated.
Leslie lives at 23, Milford Street.

Remember the expressions: **at work, at home, at the sea(side), at college, at university, at the top of..., at the bottom of...**



AT

C

The preposition **on** indicates that something or someone:

- is on top another thing (leant on, in contact).
There are two bottles of water on the table.
- Extends or faces onto something else.
Orta is a little town on a picturesque lake.

REMEMBER: **on the coast** (BUT: **by the sea**), **on the first/second... floor, on the right / left, on holiday, on a trip, on the way home, on a farm, on the radio, on TV, on Channel 5.**



ON

D

The prepositions **over / above** (suspended, without contact) and **under / below** indicate that something is above or below something else.

Remember the expressions: **above / below average, above / below zero, over / under 18.**

Under can be substituted by **underneath** and **below** by **beneath**.

There may be a nest underneath that bush.
This behaviour is beneath your dignity!



Student's notes



EXERCISES

Prepositions indicating place and position (1) UNIT 109

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L TIME: -

109.1 Complete the sentences by writing the article *the* after the preposition *in* or write *0* if the article isn't necessary.

- 1 Pamela lives in middle of London.
- 2 Dave lives in country, but I live in town.
- 3 'Where did you read about it?' 'In newspaper.'
- 4 My mother works in tourist office next to the park.
- 5 Dad's been in bed all week with terrible flu.
- 6 You're freezing cold! Have you been out in snow?
- 7 My brother lives in Victoria Road.
- 8 We spent a lovely holiday in Alps.

109.2 Match the two parts of the sentences.

1 2 3 4 5 6

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 My father works at | a work until five o'clock. |
| 2 I don't want to go out. Let's stay at | b the top of that ladder. |
| 3 It must be dangerous at | c the seaside. |
| 4 Met me at | d the town library. |
| 5 No, she's not here. She's at | e home. |
| 6 They're on holiday now, at | f the station at nine o'clock. |

109.3 Complete the sentences with the prepositions in the box.

under over above below underneath beneath

- 1 Come my umbrella and get out of the rain!
- 2 The temperature fell three degrees zero last night.
- 3 Mr Johnson lives in the flat mine.
- 4 Don't talk like that! It's you!
- 5 The police helicopter hovered the scene of the crash.
- 6 I found my passport. It was some papers on my desk.

109.4 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

- 1 My parents were holiday for a month last year.
- 2 My son has been college for six months now.
- 3 They live in the third house the right.
- 4 There weren't many people the hotel lounge last night.
- 5 Is there anything good to watch television tonight?
- 6 They haven't come back yet. They're still work.
- 7 Our school is going a trip to Lake Garda next week.
- 8 The programme you want to watch is BBC2.
- 9 Did you spend the weekend the country?
- 10 Danny worked a farm before going to university.
- 11 We live a nice little town the seaside.
- 12 Mrs Ferns lives the town centre 21, Farrel Road.

Teacher's observations

UNIT 110 Prepositions indicating place and position (2)

Other prepositions of place and position are:

A

- **near (to)** – indicates general closeness.
There's a little lake near the village.
We live near Nottingham.
- **close to** – also used in an emotional way.
The hotel is close to the city centre.
John and Mary are quite close to each other.
- **next to, beside** – indicates being connected.
The bank is beside the post office.
Jack always sits next to Vicky in the classroom.
- **from** – indicates distance.
The school is only half a mile from my house.

B

- **behind** – also used in a figurative sense meaning support.
I've been successful in my job because my wife has always been behind me.
- **in front of** – opposite to **behind**
Tom is the boy sitting in front of Sally.
There's a bus stop in front of the hotel.
- **opposite** – indicates that two things or people are facing each other.
Tom is sitting opposite Sally in the school cafeteria.
The baker's shop is opposite the pub.

C

- **between** – is used to indicate that something / someone is in the middle of two other things.
The bookcase is between the door and the window.
In geographical language, **between** is also used when there are more than two things.
Switzerland lies between Germany, France, Austria, Liechtenstein and Italy.
- **among** – indicates a position surrounded by various things (three or more).
There's a fishermen's hut among those trees.
- **around / round**
There are Roman walls around the old town.
- **along**
There are lots of nice little shops along the main street.

D

Remember also the expressions:

in / on the corner **at the corner of ... (two roads)**

Write your name in the top left-hand corner.
Let's meet at the corner of Kearny and Grant Street.

at the front **at / on the back**

There's a garden at the back of the house.

BUT: **in the back / in the front (of the car / bus)**

She was sitting in the front of the car.

<p>Student's notes</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
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EXERCISES

Prepositions indicating place and position (2) UNIT 110

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L TIME: -

110.1 Read the descriptions and complete the sentences with the correct preposition.



1 The boy is standing the girl.



4 The greengrocer's is the baker's.



2 The bookshop is the bank
..... the café.



5 There are beautiful trees the river.



3 I'm standing in a queue at the post office
a tall man. The tall man is me.



6 The children scattered the market stalls.

110.2 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition: *round, between, among, from, around or along*.

- 1 It was cold that evening, so Mandy wore a scarf her neck.
- 2 It was dark, so Don decided to walk the road, not go across the field.
- 3 The equator lies the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- 4 The land was private, so we had to go the outside of it.
- 5 We auditioned lots of sax players, but Coltrane was the best them.
- 6 The supermarket is only five minutes my house.

110.3 Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 The boy stood **in the corner** / **on the corner** of the classroom.
- 2 There's a newsagent's shop **in the corner** / **on the corner** of the street.
- 3 I met my friend **on the corner** / **at the corner** of Hill Street and Wall Road.
- 4 There's a swimming pool **in the back** / **at the back** of the house.
- 5 They were sitting **in the front** / **at the front** of the car.
- 6 'Where's my jacket?' 'It's hanging **in the back** / **on the back** of the chair.'

110.4 Match the two parts of the sentences.

1 2 3 4 5 6

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Michael is very close to | a her school friends. |
| 2 The post office stands beside | b London. |
| 3 Luton isn't very far from | c the two angry boys. |
| 4 Janet was standing among | d the car. |
| 5 I put my suitcase in the back of | e his mother. |
| 6 There was a fight, so I got between | f Barclay's Bank. |

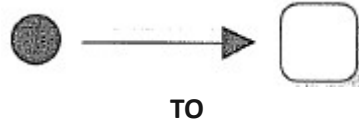
Teacher's observations

UNIT 111 Prepositions indicating movement (1)

Prepositions of movement express a shift from or to something.
They always follow verbs of movements, e.g. **go, come, get, return, drive, take, be sent.**

A

- **to** is used to indicate movement towards something.
We're going to Edinburgh by train tomorrow.
I met Susan on my way to school.



The preposition **to** is never used with the word **home**.

Let's go home. (the speaker's house)

BUT: *We're going to Sam's house for dinner.*

NB: Don't mix up the preposition **to** (of movement) with **in / at** (of place and position).

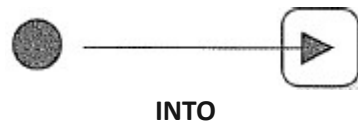
They went back to the USA last week. (not: ~~in~~ the USA)

They are in the USA now.

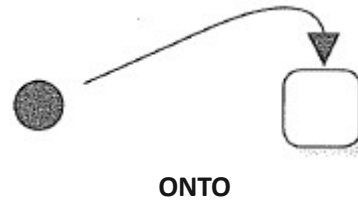
Remember the expressions: **go to work / to school / to hospital, go to prison / jail, go to bed, welcome to..., a journey / trip to..., Have you ever been to...?**

B

- **into** indicates movements towards the inner part of a closed place.
They went into the shop
Note the use of **into** with the verbs **translate** and **change** that imply the transformation of something.
I translated this book from English into Italian.
He wants to change euros into / to dollars.



- **onto** (also written **on to**) indicates movement on something.
The cat climbed onto the roof.

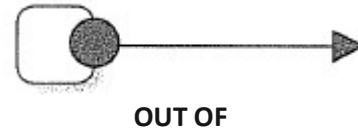


C

- **from** indicates movement from something and origin.
I got a letter from my Australian penfriend.
The new student comes from Spain



- **away from** indicates breakaway.
Why don't we go away from here? It's too crowded.
- **out of** indicates movement from a closed place towards the outside.
The rock star is just coming out of the hotel.



- **off** indicates movement, often quick and sudden, from something.
The boy fell off the tree / off his bike.
- **beyond** is also used in a figurative way.
Don't go beyond that point!

D

Look at the prepositions used to talk about getting on and off means of transport.

get into / get out of a car, a taxi, a van

get on / onto / get off a train, a bus, a boat, a place, a motorbike

Student's notes

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EXERCISES

Prepositions indicating movement (1) UNIT 111

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L TIME: -

111.1 Complete the sentences by writing the correct form of the verbs in the box before the preposition to.

go come get return drive be sent take

- 1 Would you like to **to** the park this afternoon?
- 2 Can you me **to** school in your car, Dad?
- 3 When David **to** the town where he'd been born, it had all changed.
- 4 When my father was young, he **to** Africa for a year by his firm.
- 5 It's very hard to **to** the top of the mountain.
- 6 Patsy said she couldn't **to** our house tonight.
- 7 If you **to** the centre of town, you'll find it difficult to park.

111.2 Tick (✓) the sentences in which it is correct to use to and correct those with mistakes in them.

- 1 I'm just on my way **to** the shops.
.....
- 2 Daddy's coming **to** home tomorrow.
.....
- 3 It's time for you to go **to** bed.
.....
- 4 Welcome **to** Hollywood!
.....
- 5 He's staying **to** the Astoria Hotel.
.....
- 6 My father's ill **to** hospital.
.....
- 7 Tim fell **to** his motorbike.
.....

111.3 Into or onto? Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 I put my pens and books **into / onto** my school bag.
- 2 It was such a nice day, I decided to walk **into / onto** town.
- 3 We were scared even before we went **into / onto** the roller coaster.
- 4 We got **into / onto** the M4 motorway just near Swindon.
- 5 Get **into / onto** the car quickly – it's starting to rain.
- 6 Linda's translating some poems **into / onto** English.
- 7 I was putting some books away, when they fell **into / onto** my head.

111.4 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

- 1 I received a present my aunt in London.
- 2 I'd like to get away the city for a week.
- 3 When we came out the restaurant, it was snowing.
- 4 I've asked you three times to get that table!
- 5 You must get the intercity train in Mestre.
- 6 He got his bicycle and rode away down the street.
- 7 We saw masked men getting a white van and driving away.

Teacher's observations