

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> **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 .....

## EXERCISES

### Prepositions of time (1) UNIT 107

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ student code \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

LEVEL: \_\_\_\_\_ CEFR \_\_\_\_\_ 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