



PREPOSITIONS



IN / AT / ON (time)

AT

EXACT TIME

at five o'clock
 at 11.45
 at approximately 12.30
 at about four o'clock
 at around 11.30

MEAL TIMES

at lunchtime
 at teatime
 at dinner time

OTHER POINTS OF TIME

at dawn
 at noon
 at midnight
 at sunset
 at night
 at the weekend
 at weekends
 at the moment
 at present

FESTIVALS

at Christmas
 at Easter
 at Christmas-time

AGE

at this time
 at that time
 at the same time



ON

DAYS OF WEEK

on Monday
 on Fridays

PARTS OF THE DAY

on Monday morning
 on Friday evenings

DATES

on June 1st
 on 21st May
 on 16 May 1999



DAY + DATE

on Monday June 1st

Particular occasions

on that day
 on that evening
 on that morning

ANNIVERSARIES

on your birthday
 on your wedding day
 on their wedding anniversary

FESTIVALS

on Christmas day
 on Christmas Eve
 on New Year's Day

IN



PARTS OF THE DAY

in the evening
 in the mornings

MONTHS

in January
 in September

Years

in 1999
 in 2012

CENTURIES

in the 19th century
 in the 20th century

FESTIVALS

in Ramadan
 in Easter week

Periods of time

in the holidays (*on a holiday*)

In and, more formally, **within**, sometimes mean 'before the end of a stated period of time, which may be present, past or future:

I always eat my breakfast in ten minutes

I finished the examination in an hour and a half

When we refer to the future in phrases like in ten days (or in ten days time), we mean 'at the end of a period starting from now:

The material will be ready in ten days/in ten days' time

However, when we mean 'within a period of time, not starting from now', we cannot use -s apostrophe + time.

Compare:

Sanderson will run a mile in four minutes

(That's how long it will take him to do it.)

Sanderson will run a mile in four minutes' time

(That's when he'll start running.)

NO PREPOSITION

We do not use **at / on / it** before **last / next / every / this**

I'll see you **next Friday**. I was him **this Monday**. I go on a holiday **every year**. John arrived **last week**.