**Prepositions of Time**

**In, at, on and no preposition with time words:**

Prepositions of time - here's a list of the time words that need 'on', 'in', 'at' and some that don't need any preposition. Be careful - many students of English use 'on' with months (it should be 'in'), or put a preposition before 'next' when we don't need one.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **at** | * times: **at** 8pm, **at** midnight, **at** 6:30 * holiday periods: **at** Christmas, **at** Easter * **at** night * **at** the weekend * **at** lunchtime, **at** dinnertime, **at** breakfast time |
| **on** | * days: **on** Monday, **on** my birthday, **on** Christmas Day * days + morning / afternoon / evening / night: **on** Tuesday morning * dates: **on** the 20th of June |
| **in** | * years: **in** 1992, **in** 2006 * months: **in** December, **in** June * decades: **in** the sixties, **in** the 1790s * centuries: **in** the 19th century * seasons: **in** winter, **in** summer * **in** the morning, **in** the afternoon, **in** the evening |
| **no  prep** | * next week, year, month etc * last night, year etc * this morning, month etc * every day, night, years etc * today, tomorrow, yesterday |

**Prepositions of Place**

Prepositions of place can be difficult - here's some help about using 'at', 'in' and 'on' when you're talking about where things are.

If something is contained inside a box or a wide flat area, we use **‘in’**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **in** the newspaper | **in** a house |
| **in** a cup | **in** a drawer |
| **in** a bottle | **in** a bag |
| **in** bed | **in** a car |
| **in** London | **in** England |
| **in** a book | **in** a pub |
| **in** a field | **in** the sea |
| **in** my stomach | **in** a river |

If something is on a line or a horizontal or vertical surface, we use **‘on’**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **on** the table | **on** the wall |
| **on** the floor | **on** the window |
| **on** my face | **on** a plate |
| **on** the page | **on** the sofa |
| **on** a chair | **on** a bag |
| **on** the river | **on** a t-shirt |
| **on** the ceiling | **on** a bottle |
| **on** a bike | **on** his foot |

If something is at a point, (it could be a building) we use **‘at’**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **at** the airport | **at** the door |
| **at** the table | **at** the bus stop |
| **at** the cinema | **at** the top |
| **at** the bottom | **at** the pub |
| **at** the traffic lights | **at** the front |
| **at** the back | **at** school |
| **at** university | **at** the window |
| **at** the hospital | **at** the piano |

Here are some more common ones that don't really fit:

* on TV
* on the bus
* on a train
* on a plane
* on the radio
* at home
* at work

**Verbs and Prepositions**

Some verbs need a preposition before an object or another verb. The preposition is only grammatical, so it doesn't change the meaning of the verb.

Here are some of the most common ones:

* **arrive at / in somewhere**   
  We arrived at the airport.   
  We arrived in London.
* **belong to somebody**   
  This book belongs to me.
* **borrow something from somebody**   
  I borrowed a book from my classmate.
* **concentrate on something / doing something**   
  I concentrated on studying at the weekend.
* **depend on something / somebody**   
  It depends on the weather.
* **explain something to somebody**   
  The teacher explained the exercise to the students.
* **listen to something / somebody**   
  I listened to music.
* **pay somebody for something**   
  I paid the waiter for the coffee.
* **wait for somebody / something**   
  Wait for me!
* **worry about somebody / something**   
  Don't worry about a thing!