

107 Prepositions of time

Prepositions of time are often used to talk about schedules and routines. They give information about when something happens, and how long it lasts.

See also:

Present perfect continuous 12
Prepositions 105

107.1 "ON"

"On" is often used before days of the week to say when something happens.

I work **on** Mondays.

In US English the preposition can be left out.

"-s" can be added to the day of the week to show that the thing happens regularly on that day.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

The library is closed **on** Sundays.



I'm going shopping **on** Saturday.



I have orchestra practice **on** Fridays.



I'll visit my grandparents **on** Monday.



107.2 "AT"

"At" is usually used to express what time something happens.

I leave the house **at** 8am.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

They are meeting **at** 1 o'clock.



I have an appointment **at** 7 o'clock.



I have a yoga class **at** lunchtime.



I get the bus **at** half past 8.



107.3 "ON" AND "AT" WITH "THE WEEKEND"

When talking about the weekend, US English uses "on," whereas UK English uses "at."



I watch TV { on at } the weekend.

"On the weekend" is more common in the US.

"At the weekend" is more common in the UK.

107.4 "IN"

"In" has a similar meaning as "during" and is used before months, years, seasons, and general times of day, e.g. "morning" and "afternoon."

I go to the gym in the morning.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

I usually watch TV in the evening.



She's going to Europe in June.



I was born in 1973.



I enjoy gardening in summer.



107.5 "PAST" AND "TO"

"Past" and "to" are prepositions of time that are mainly used when telling the time.

"Past" means "after the hour."

It's twenty past seven.



"To" means "until the hour."

It's twenty to seven.



107.6 PREPOSITIONS SHOWING DURATION

"From... to..." or "between... and..." are used to say when an activity starts and finishes.

"From" is used to say the time something starts.

I work **from** 9am **to** 5pm.



9AM



5PM

"To" is used to say the time something finishes.

"Between" is used to say the time something starts.

"And" is used to say the time something finishes.

I work **between** 9am **and** 5pm.



"Until" can be used to say when an ongoing situation finishes.

"UNTIL" + TIME OR DATE

I will be working **until** five o'clock.



9AM

5PM

"Since" can be used to say when an ongoing situation started.

"SINCE" + TIME OR DATE

I have been working **since** 9am.



9AM

NOW

"For" can be used to express how long something has been happening.

"FOR" + QUANTITY OF TIME

I have been working **for** six hours.



6 HOURS AGO

NOW

"During" can be used to express when something was happening, rather than how long it went on for.

I relaxed **during** my break.



BREAK

NOW

! COMMON MISTAKES TENSES WITH "SINCE"

"Since" is usually used with perfect tenses with reference to the past. It is not used with the present simple.

The present perfect continuous is often used with since.

Tim has been **working** here since last year. ✓

Tim works here since last year. ✗

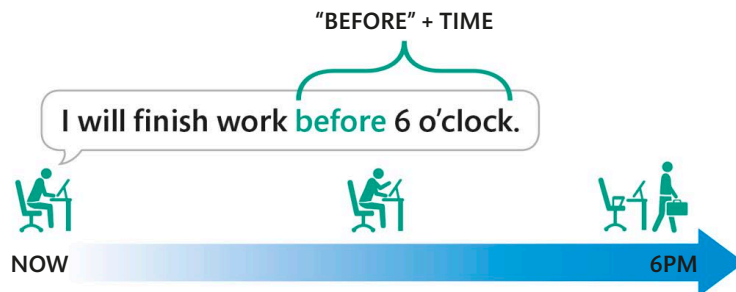
Since can't be used with the present simple.

107.7 OTHER PREPOSITIONS OF TIME

"By" is used to talk about when something will be done or finished. It means "at" or "before."



"Before" is used to talk about something that happens prior to something else or a certain time.



"After" is used to refer to an event that follows another event.

