



**Remember to watch the video first!** Then read the conversation between Sophie and Pachi, a student she met during careers week. Sophie's helping Pachi understand how to use prepositions of time.



**Grammar  
Snacks**

We use many different prepositions for talking about time. Here we are looking at: *in, on, at, during* and *for*.

We use *in, on* and *at* for lots of different times. Here's a table comparing the uses:



*Sophie*

in	on	at
<p><b>Months:</b> in January / in April</p> <p><b>Seasons:</b> in spring / in winter</p> <p><b>Years:</b> in 1984 / in 2015</p> <p><b>Centuries:</b> in the 20th century</p> <p><b>Times of day:</b> in the morning / in the evening</p> <p><b>Longer periods of time:</b> in the past / in the 1990s / in the holidays</p>	<p><b>Days of the week:</b> on Monday</p> <p><b>Days + parts of days:</b> on Tuesday afternoon / on Saturday mornings</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> on November 22nd</p> <p><b>Special days:</b> on my birthday / on New Year's Eve</p>	<p><b>Clock times:</b> at 7.30 a.m. / at 5 o'clock</p> <p><b>Festivals:</b> at Christmas / at Easter</p> <p><b>Exceptions:</b> at night / at the weekend</p>



*Pachi*

Wow! That's a lot of uses! So I have to learn all those?

Yes, but you probably know most of them, don't you?



Yes, maybe ... Is that all of them? I mean, are there any exceptions?

Well, sometimes we don't use a preposition of time, for example after *next/this/last/every*.

*We go skateboarding every Saturday afternoon.  
I'll see you next Friday.*





Mm, but I could also say: *"I'll see you on Friday."*

Oh yes, that's fine too. But we often leave out on with days of the week when we're speaking.

*I'll see you Friday.*



OK. Now, about dates ... You write *"on 8th July"* but how do you say that?

Good question! We say *"on the eighth of July"*.



OK, so I have to remember to say *"on THE eighth OF July"*.

Exactly.



One last question about *in*. Can I use it for the future, as in *"I'll do it in a minute"*?

Yes, that's very common. We use *in* for talking about something in the future a certain length of time from now.

*She'll be back in a moment.*  
*We're going away in two weeks.*



And can I say, *"We're going away for two weeks"*?

Yes, but the meaning is completely different.

*We're going away in two weeks.* (= we leave two weeks from now)  
*We're going away for two weeks.* (= our holiday will be two weeks long)



Ah, and what about *"We're going away during two weeks"*?

No, you can't say that. We use *for* + a *length of time*, to say how long something goes on for, and *during* + a *noun / noun phrase*, to say when something happens.

*It snowed **for** three hours.*  
*It snowed **during** the night.*



OK, that's a useful rule. But, hang on, I can also say "*It snowed in the night*".

Yes, absolutely.



And: "*I did a lot of work **in** the holidays*" or "*I did a lot of work **during** the holidays*"?

Yes, you've got the hang of this.



Good, so now I'm going to study *for a few hours*. I'll see you *on Tuesday, in the morning, at about 10 o'clock*.

See you at some time during the morning!



Watch the video on our website!

