

4 | Language reference

GRAMMAR

Prepositions of time: *in, at, on*

Use the prepositions *in, on* and *at* to talk about time.

in + months, years, the morning/afternoon/evening

in March, *in* the morning

on + days, dates

on Monday, *on* January 16th

at + time of day; also *at* night

at four o'clock

We use *at* with *night, the weekend*:

at night, *at* the weekend

We use *at* with some special holidays:

at Christmas, *at* Easter

Frequency adverbs & phrases

Use frequency adverbs to say how often you do something.

How *often* do you do the housework?

I *never* do the housework.

always often usually sometimes hardly ever/rarely never

100% 0%

Frequency adverbs go before the verb (except *to be*).

He *never* makes the bed.

Frequency adverbs go after the verb *to be*.

He's *always* on the phone.

You can also use phrases like:

every day/month/year

once a week/month/year

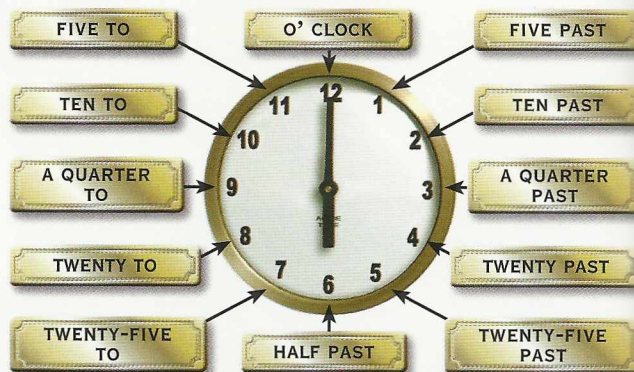
These phrases go at the beginning or end of a sentence.

I make the bed *every morning*.

Once a year, he washes the clothes.

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

Telling the time



Use *It's* + time to say the time in English.

It's eight o'clock.

It's a quarter past five.

It's half past eleven.

It's ten to nine.

We can say the time in two ways:

It's twenty to six.

It's five forty.

We can also use *about* + time. We use *about* when we don't know the exact time.

It's about half past three.

We can ask the time in two ways:

What's the time?

What time is it?

The date

Write the date:

1st May, 2012 or *1 May 2012* or *1/5/12* or *01/05/12*

Say the date:

the first of May two thousand and twelve or

May the first two thousand and twelve

Ask the date:

What's the date today?

What date is it today?

We use ordinal numbers to say the date in English. For more on ordinal numbers, see lesson 3D.

Talking on the phone

Just a minute.

Can I call you back?

I'd like to speak to Mr Green.

Would you like to leave a message?

Please tell him to call me.

Is (Simon) there, please?

I'm sorry, you have the wrong number.

(Jerry) can't answer the phone right now.

Can I take a message?

Hi, it's (Rob).

WORD LIST

Phrases with *have, go & get*

have breakfast/dinner/lunch	/həv 'brekfəst, 'dɪnə(r), lʌntʃ/
have a drink/a coffee/ a sandwich	/həv ə drɪŋk, ə 'kɒfi, ə 'sæn(d)wɪdʒ/
have a break	/həv ə breɪk/
have a nap	/həv ə næp/
get dressed	/get 'drest/
get up	/get ʌp/
get home	/get həʊm/
go home	/gəʊ həʊm/
go to bed	/gəʊ tu bed/
go to sleep	/gəʊ tu sli:p/

Months

January <i>n C/U ***</i>	/'dʒænjuəri/
February <i>n C/U ***</i>	/'februəri/
March <i>n C/U ***</i>	/mɑ:(r)tʃ/
April <i>n C/U ***</i>	/'eɪprəl/
May <i>n C/U ***</i>	/meɪ/
June <i>n C/U ***</i>	/dʒu:n/
July <i>n C/U ***</i>	/dʒu:'laɪ/
August <i>n C/U ***</i>	/'ɔ:gəst/
September <i>n C/U ***</i>	/sep'tembə(r)/
October <i>n C/U ***</i>	/ɒk'təʊbə(r)/
November <i>n C/U ***</i>	/nəʊ'vembə(r)/
December <i>n C/U ***</i>	/dɪ'sembə(r)/

Housework

do the ironing	/du: ði 'aɪə(r)nɪŋ/
do the shopping	/du: ðə 'ʃɒpɪŋ/
clean the bathroom	/kli:n ðə 'bɑ:θru:m/
make dinner	/meɪk 'dɪnə(r)/
make the bed	/meɪk ðə 'bed/
wash the clothes	/wɒʃ ðə 'kləʊðz/
water the plants	/wɔ:tə(r) ðə 'plɑ:nts/
do the dishes	/du: ðə 'dɪʃɪs/
set the table	/set ðə 'teɪb(ə)l/
take out the rubbish	/teɪk aʊt ðə 'rʌbɪʃ/

Other words & phrases

breakfast <i>n C/U ***</i>	/'brekfəst/
calendar <i>n C **</i>	/'kælɪndə(r)/
card <i>n C/U ***</i>	/kɑ:(r)d/
class <i>n C/U ***</i>	/kla:s/
closed <i>adj **</i>	/kləʊzd/
dinner <i>n C/U ***</i>	/'dɪnə(r)/
Earth <i>n C/U ***</i>	/'ɜ:(r)θ/
finish <i>v ***</i>	/'fɪnɪʃ/
gym <i>n C/U *</i>	/dʒɪm/
Halloween <i>n C/U</i>	/'hæləʊ'i:n/
idea <i>n C/U ***</i>	/'aɪ'diə/
lunch <i>n C/U ***</i>	/'lʌntʃ/
meeting <i>n C ***</i>	/'mi:tɪŋ/
nap <i>n C</i>	/'næp/
nothing <i>prn ***</i>	/'nʌθɪŋ/
open <i>adj ***</i>	/'əʊpən/
shower <i>n C **</i>	/'ʃaʊə(r)/
special <i>adj ***</i>	/'speʃ(ə)l/
United Nations <i>n C</i>	/'ju:n'aɪtɪd 'neɪʃ(ə)nz/