

# Other prepositions of time

## Introduction



Hans was born **on** 25/11/80 **at** 2 o'clock **in** the afternoon.

## Other prepositions

	Meaning	Examples
<b>By</b>	The end of a period of time.	I need to finish this report <b>by</b> Friday. [on or before Friday but no later] <b>By</b> the time I get home, I'll be really hungry. He'll be a qualified doctor <b>by</b> next summer.
<b>Until</b> <b>Till</b> [an informal alternative]	Up to a point in time. <b>Note that</b> 'until' is more common than 'till' at the beginning of a sentence.	We have <b>until</b> tomorrow to find a replacement. We sat in the garden <b>until</b> it started to rain. <b>Until</b> recently, Louise worked in London.  I'm going to work <b>till</b> 6 today. I can't wait <b>till</b> lunchtime - I've got to eat something now.
<b>From...until/till/to</b>	Between two points in time.	I'll be out of the office <b>from</b> 2 <b>till</b> 4. <b>From</b> January <b>to</b> March the sales figures were excellent. It rained <b>from</b> Saturday morning <b>until</b> Sunday night.
<b>Between...(and)</b>	Between two points in time.	Some people say we shouldn't eat <b>between</b> meals. I'll be out of the office <b>between</b> 2 <b>and</b> 4.

<b>Within</b>	<b>Happening inside a period of time and no later.</b>	<b>We need to eat this yoghurt <b>within</b> two days of opening it.</b> <b>She expects to be promoted <b>within</b> the next year.</b> <b>The parcel will arrive <b>within</b> a week.</b>
<b>Throughout</b>	<b>During an entire period of time.</b>	<b>People arrived <b>throughout</b> the day.</b> <b>We're going to recruit new staff <b>throughout</b> the year.</b> <b>Everyone listened attentively <b>throughout</b> her presentation.</b>
<b>During</b>	<b>1. Throughout a period of time.</b>  <b>2. A more specific period.</b>  <b>3. An unspecified point within a period.</b>	<b>This café is open <b>during</b> the day but not <b>at</b> night.</b>  <b>I learned a lot about computers <b>during</b> my time with that company.</b>  <b><b>During</b> the company's <u>first two</u> years, it was very successful.</b>  <b>During two years, the company was very successful. [use 'for']</b>  <b>She was born <b>during</b> the Second World War.</b> <b>I sometimes wake up <b>during</b> the night.</b> <b>He called me <b>during</b> the meeting.</b>

See also **Adverbs of time**.

## No preposition

1. We don't use 'in', 'on' or 'at' for days, months etc. directly before the following words:

**every**  
**last**  
**next**  
**today**  
**yesterday**

**tomorrow**

We visit my parents every weekend.

We visit my parents at every weekend. ❌

We saw them last Saturday.

We saw them on last Saturday. ❌

We're going skiing with them next February.

We're going skiing with them in next February. ❌

Did you see him yesterday morning or are you meeting him today?

Did you see him in the morning yesterday or in the afternoon?

Did you see him in yesterday morning? ❌

Are you free tomorrow evening?

**2. We do not use a preposition with 'this' when it refers to the present time:**

I had to work late last night so I slept a little longer this morning. [today]

I'm so busy this week. [the current week]

It's my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday this September. [September of the current year]

However, when you use 'this' or 'that' in order to be very specific, we can add a preposition, although it is not necessary. For example:

I told her I couldn't attend the training (**on**) *that* morning/afternoon/day. [the morning, afternoon or day previously mentioned]

(**In**) *that* month, we're going to Paris and (**in**) *this* month we're travelling to the south. [we already know which months we're talking about or we're looking at a calendar]

See also [Adverbs of time](#) and [Prepositions after expressions](#).

## Uses and examples

	Meaning	Examples
By	The end of a period of time.	I need to finish this report <b>by</b> Friday. [on or before Friday but no later] By the time I get home, I'll be really hungry. He'll be a qualified doctor <b>by</b> next summer.

<p><b>Until</b></p> <p><b>Till [an informal alternative]</b></p>	<p><b>Up to a point in time.</b></p> <p><b>Note that 'until' is more common than 'till' at the beginning of a sentence.</b></p>	<p><b>We have <b>until</b> tomorrow to find a replacement.</b></p> <p><b>We sat in the garden <b>until</b> it started to rain.</b></p> <p><b>Until recently, Louise worked in London.</b></p> <p><b>I'm going to work <b>till</b> 6 today.</b></p> <p><b>I can't wait <b>till</b> lunchtime - I've got to eat something now.</b></p>
<p><b>From...until/till/to</b></p>	<p><b>Between two points in time.</b></p>	<p><b>I'll be out of the office <b>from</b> 2 <b>till</b> 4.</b></p> <p><b>From January <b>to</b> March the sales figures were excellent.</b></p> <p><b>It rained <b>from</b> Saturday morning <b>until</b> Sunday night.</b></p>
<p><b>Between...(and)</b></p>	<p><b>Between two points in time.</b></p>	<p><b>Some people say we shouldn't eat <b>between</b> meals.</b></p> <p><b>I'll be out of the office <b>between</b> 2 <b>and</b> 4.</b></p>
<p><b>Within</b></p>	<p><b>Happening inside a period of time and no later.</b></p>	<p><b>We need to eat this yoghurt <b>within</b> two days of opening it.</b></p> <p><b>She expects to be promoted <b>within</b> the next year.</b></p> <p><b>The parcel will arrive <b>within</b> a week.</b></p>
<p><b>Throughout</b></p>	<p><b>During an entire period of time.</b></p>	<p><b>People arrived <b>throughout</b> the day.</b></p> <p><b>We're going to recruit new staff <b>throughout</b> the year.</b></p> <p><b>Everyone listened attentively <b>throughout</b> her presentation.</b></p>
<p><b>During</b></p>	<p><b>1. Throughout a period of time.</b></p> <p><b>2. A more specific period.</b></p> <p><b>3. An unspecified point within a period.</b></p>	<p><b>This café is open <b>during</b> the day but not <b>at</b> night.</b></p> <p><b>I learned a lot about computers <b>during</b> my time with that company.</b></p> <p><b><u>During</u> the company's <b>first two</b> years, it was very successful.</b></p> <p><b><u>During</u> For two years, the company was very successful.</b></p> <p><b>She was born <b>during</b> the Second World War.</b></p> <p><b>I sometimes wake up <b>during</b> the night.</b></p> <p><b>He called me <b>during</b> the meeting.</b></p>



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