

Grammar

We use prepositions before a noun or a noun phrase.

at home in the big, white house

Some prepositions can have several meanings.

*I have a family picture **on** my desk at work.* (= physical location)

*He saw the report **on** community services.* (= about)

*My little brother made a power point presentation **on** my laptop.* (= using)

*She is **on** the advertising committee.* (= a member of)

1 Prepositions of time

At, in, on

The prepositions *at*, *in*, and *on* often show time.

at a specific time	in a period of time	on a day or date
at 10:00 at noon at night	in December in 2002 in the summer	on Wednesday on June 15 th on my birthday

By, until

The prepositions *by* and *until* indicate an end point in time.

By indicates an action that can continue up to a point in time, but not after that time.

The action can end anytime before that point in time.

*We need to finish everything **by** 10:00.* (Everything should be completed at any time before 10:00, but not later than 10:00.)

Until indicates an action that continues up to a point in time, but not after that time.

*Jade will work on the project **until** 10:00.* (Jade will work continuously and at 10:00 she will stop working.)

*We can't work on the project **until** Sherra arrives.* (We will not work now and when Sherra arrives we will start working.)

In, for, during

In indicates how soon the action will take place.

*The party starts **in** ten minutes.*

For indicates how long the action lasts.

*We were at the convention **for** three days but left sometime **during** the last day.*

During indicates a period of time within which an action happens.

***During** the rainstorm we stood under the tree **for** three hours.*

2 Prepositions of place

We use some prepositions to show where something is.

In, at, on

We use *in* to describe when something is inside something else.

We can hear the sound of people talking in the background.

Do you work in a huge office building?