

Prepositions 2

time

A Context listening

A1 Dea and Simon are talking about sport on the radio. Before you listen, look at the photographs and write the names of the sports. Which sports do you think they will talk about?



A2 **18** Listen and check if you were right. As you listen, put the sports in the order in which you hear about them.

A3 **18** Listen again and fill in the gaps below. If there is no word in the gap, mark - .

- 1 ... *in* ten days there's one of my favourite events.
- 2 I run every day one or two hours.
- 3 next month there's the Cup Final.
- 4 That's the 18th, right?
- 5 ... the European Champions' final, which is the end of the month.
- 6 ... don't forget the British Grand Prix July.
- 7 ... fans will arrive sunrise and queue hours.
- 8 ... it's worth waiting five o'clock.
- 9 I did that my birthday.
- 10 ... if it rains a match ...
- 11 ... that's sport the summer.
- 12 We haven't got any more time the moment.

A4 Look at your answers to A3 and write the words which follow:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 <i>in</i> <i>ten days</i> | 5 <i>for</i> |
| 2 <i>at</i> | 6 <i>until</i> |
| 3 <i>on</i> | 7 - |
| 4 <i>during</i> | |

B Grammar

B1 At, on and in

We use *at* with

- ◆ a point of time, seasonal holidays:

at the beginning/end of the month, at six o'clock, at sunrise, at lunchtime, at Christmas

We also use *at* in some expressions:

at the weekend, at first (= at the beginning), *at last* (= finally), *at present / at the moment* (= now)

We use *on* with

- ◆ dates, days of the week, special days:

on 8th July (note that we say *on the eighth of July*), *on Sunday, on my birthday, on the day of the race*

We use *in* with

- ◆ parts of the day, months, seasons, years, decades, centuries:

in the afternoon/morning/evening (but *at night*), *in July, in (the) summer, in 1953, in the 90s, in the twenty-first century*

▲ We do not use a preposition before *today, tomorrow, yesterday, this/next/last*:

Next month there's the Cup Final. (not In next month there's the Cup Final.)

→ C1

▲ Be careful with these expressions.

in the end ≠ *at the end*

in the end = the final result **but** *at the end* = the last event:

I looked everywhere for my shoe. In the end I found it under my bed.

The film was very exciting with a long car chase at the end.

on time ≠ *in time*

on time = at the correct time **but** *in time* = early enough:

If the train's on time, I'll be home at six.

If we leave now, we'll be home in time to see the news.

B2 By and until/till

We use *by* to show something happens before or at a time:

Can you clean the car by four o'clock? (= Will the car be clean before or at four o'clock?)

We use *until/till* to show something happens up to, but not after, a time:

Don't wait until/till July to get your tickets. (= Buy your tickets before July.)

They played until/till it got dark. (= They stopped when it got dark.)

→ C2

B3 In, during and for

In and *during* often mean the same when we talk about a period of time:

There will be some good sport in/during the next few months.

But when we talk about an activity or an event we use *during* not *in*:

It rained during the match. (= the players were playing tennis when the rain started)

For tells us how long: *I run every day for one or two hours.*

In tells us how soon: *In ten days there's one of my favourite events.*

→ C3, C4

C Grammar exercises

C1 Complete each sentence with one of the words or phrases in the box.

last the moment ~~Monday~~ 14th June the 1950s New Year the evening
the end of this lesson the nineteenth century their wedding anniversary

- 1 I'll meet you on Monday
- 2 Did you visit your cousins at ?
- 3 The exam took place on
- 4 Ian looked everywhere for his camera and at he found it in his bag.
- 5 Women first came to this university in
- 6 We took my parents to a restaurant on
- 7 Where is Michael living at ?
- 8 My grandparents went to Australia in
- 9 We don't often go shopping in because we're too tired.
- 10 Let's go to the café at

C2 Fill in the gaps in this note with *at, on, in, by, until* or mark – if no word is necessary.

Hi Tabitha

I hope you're all ready for our trip to Glasgow. Remember to bring a jacket because Scotland can be very rainy, even 1 in summer and it may be cold 2 night. But I'm sure we'll have a good time. My brother was there 3 2004. I spoke to him 4 last week and he says it's a great place. Our plane arrives there 5 lunchtime so we'll have plenty of time to find somewhere to stay. Then we can go out 6 the evening and go to some art galleries 7 Friday. I've booked tickets for a guided tour 8 the weekend. But we'll have time for shopping, don't worry. You can phone me 9 tomorrow if you want to ask me anything, I'll be at home 10 about two, but I have to go out after that. That's it, really. I'll meet you at the airport 11 quarter past eleven 12 Thursday. I know the flight's not 13 12.30 but we have to check in 14 11.30 at the latest so please make sure you're there 15 time!

Love

Francine

C3 Underline the correct prepositions in this magazine article.

New Year Romance



The singer Petunia is getting married again! She told our reporter the news:

I've known Carlo 1 *in/for* six months. He's a wonderful person and I'm so happy. I met him 2 *during/at* my European tour last autumn. He asked me to marry him and of course I said 'Yes' immediately. But we didn't want to make an announcement 3 *for/until* we'd told our families. We're having a house built near Milan. The architect promises it'll be ready 4 *by/till* the summer so we can move in straight away. I'm so excited. 5 *On/In* three weeks I'll be Mrs Bianchi! And I'm going to be Mrs Bianchi 6 *in/for* the rest of my life. Isn't that wonderful?

C4 Chuck is planning to visit his English cousin, Rick. Fill in the gaps in this online chat with a preposition.

Hi Rick. A few questions, if you have time?

Hi Chuck. Ask anything.

I'll be in classes 1 *on* weekdays. Will I have time for shopping?

Of course! You can go shopping 2 weekends. Most shops are open all day 3 Saturdays, but they don't open 4 ten or eleven o'clock 5 Sundays.

What about getting home if I stay out late 6 the evening?
Do buses run 7 the night in your town?

There are some buses 8 the middle of the evening, but not after that, so if you're not home 9 ten, you'll have to get a taxi. Or cycle.

I don't really want to cycle in England 10 winter. Perhaps I could hire a car.

I don't think you can hire a car 11 your twenty-first birthday actually!
But don't worry. You'll be here 12 six weeks and you'll soon get used to everything. Anyway, I'll make sure you have a good time.

That's great. Thanks for the help. See you.
Bye.

D Exam practice

Reading Part 3

Read the text and questions below.

For each question, mark the correct letter **A, B, C** or **D**.

Portmeirion

Last week I visited the village of Portmeirion in north Wales. During my childhood, I'd enjoyed holidays in the area, which is one of the most beautiful parts of Britain. However, I'd never been to the village and I had always wanted to. I visited the village in the autumn, which was a good choice as it was less crowded than in the summer. I'd read about its history and knew that the buildings were from many different styles and periods but hadn't realised how colourful they would be.

Portmeirion didn't exist in the nineteenth century. The first building didn't go up until 1926 and the last in 1976. It was built by Sir Clough Williams. From the age of 5, he dreamed of building his own village. He wanted to show that it was possible to build a village in a lovely area and not spoil it. In 1919 he sailed around the British coast for several months looking for a suitable spot. He visited 22 possible sites before he found the place of his dreams at last, just 8 km away from his family home.

Sir Clough had to build cheaply and quickly and I discovered that some of the buildings even have painted windows which were cheaper than putting in real windows! Some were built so that they look grander than they are. The windows in the bell tower, for example, are smaller as you go up the tower, so it seems taller from the ground than it really is.

On my second day there I stood on the balcony of my hotel at dawn. As I looked over the Austrian-style houses and Italian piazzas with the wonderful view of the Welsh coastline in the background, I realised what Clough Williams was trying to do.

1 What is the writer trying to do?

- A give information about where to stay in Portmeirion
- B compare Portmeirion to other similar villages
- C describe a visit to Portmeirion
- D suggest what improvements could be made to Portmeirion

2 What surprised the writer about the village?

- A the mixture of buildings
- B the beauty of the area
- C the number of visitors
- D the different colours used

- 3 What was the aim of Clough Williams in 1919?
- A to build a village without damaging the natural surroundings
 - B to make an existing village more beautiful
 - C to build a village as close to his home as possible
 - D to visit as many villages as possible before building his own

- 4 What did the writer find out about some of the buildings?
- A They cost more to build than expected.
 - B They aren't as big as they look.
 - C There was a mistake in their design.
 - D Some of the windows need replacing.

5 Which of these postcards did the writer send from Portmeirion?

A

It's my first visit to the area, and I hadn't realised how lovely this coast is. We should have a holiday together in Portmeirion.	 _____ _____ _____
--	--

B

I discovered Portmeirion by chance. I've really enjoyed finding out about its history and looking at the unusual buildings.	 _____ _____ _____
---	--

C

I hadn't been to Portmeirion before but I'm pleased I came. I now realise what a special place it is.	 _____ _____ _____
---	---

D

Portmeirion village is getting bigger all the time. I don't think they should add any more new buildings.	 _____ _____ _____
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Grammar focus task

Put the correct prepositions in the spaces. Use the exam task to help you. There are similar expressions in it.

Last week I visited the city of York. I'd enjoyed holidays there (1) during my childhood and I'd always wanted to go back. This year I went there again (2) last. When I was a child we went (3) the summer but this time I visited (4) the autumn. I was there (5) five days. The first place I went to was the Cathedral or Minster. There was a church there (6) the fourth century but the present building was started (7) 1220 and wasn't completed until 1472.