

Unit 114

At/on/it (time)

a At We use **at** with times:

at 5 o'clock **at** 11.45 **at** midnight **at** lunchtime

- Tom usually leaves work **at five o'clock**.

But we usually leave out **at** when we ask (At) what time ...?:

- **What time** are you going out this evening?

We also use **at** in these expressions:

at night	I don't like going out at night .
at the week-end / at week-ends	Will you be here at the week-end ?
at Christmas / at Easter (public holiday periods)	We give each other presents at Christmas .
at the moment / at present	Mr Benn is busy at the moment/at present .
at the same time	Ann and I arrived at the same time .

b On We use **on** with dates and days:

on 12 March **on** Friday(s) **on** Christmas Day (*but* 'at Christmas')

- They got married **on 12 March**.

We also say:

on Friday morning(s) **on** Sunday afternoon(s) **on** Monday evening(s)
on Saturday night(s) etc.

- I usually go out **on Monday evenings**.

c In We use **in** for longer periods of time (for example: months/years/seasons):

in April **in** 1968 **in**(the) winter
in the 18th century **in** the 1970s **in** the Middle Ages

- They got married **in 1968**.

We also say:

in the morning(s) / **in** the afternoon(s) / **in** the evening(s)

- I'll see you **in the morning**. (*but* 'I'll see you **on Friday morning**.')

d We do not use **at/on/in** before **last** and **next**:

- I'll see you **next** Friday.
- They got married **last** March.

e In + a period of time = a time in the future:

- The train will be leaving **in a few minutes**. (= a few minutes from now)
- Jack's gone away. He'll be back **in a week**. (= a week from now)
- They are getting married **in six months**. (= six months from now)

You can also say 'in six months' **time**', 'in a week's **time**' etc.:

- They are getting married **in six months' time**.

We also use **in** to say how long it takes to do something:

- I learnt to drive **in four weeks**. (= it took me four weeks to learn)

