

Unit 120

On time / in time At the end / in the end

a On time and in time

On time = punctual, not late. If something happens **on time**, it happens at the time which was planned:

- The 11.45 train left **on time**. (= it left at 11.45)
- A: I'll meet you at the corner at 7.30.
B: Okay, but please be **on time**. (= don't be late / be there at 7.30)
- The conference was very well organised. Everything began and finished **on time**.

In time (for something / to do something) = soon enough for something / soon enough to do something:

- Will you be home **in time for dinner**? (= soon enough for dinner)
- I've sent Jill her birthday present. I hope it arrives **in time** (for her birthday). (= soon enough for her birthday)
- I must hurry. I want to get home **in time to see the football match on television**. (= soon enough to see the football match)

The opposite of **in time** is **too late**:

- I got home **too late** to see the football match.

Note the expression **just in time**:

- We got to the station **just in time** to catch the train.
- A dog ran across the road in front of the car, but I managed to stop **just in time** (to avoid hitting the dog).

b At the end and in the end

At the end (of something) = at the time when something ends. For example:

at the end of the month at the end of January
at the end of the film at the end of the course
at the end of the match at the end of the concert

- I'm going away **at the end of January** / **at the end of the month**.
- **At the end of the concert**, there was tremendous applause.
- All the players shook hands **at the end of the match**.

You cannot say 'in the end of something'.

The opposite of **at the end** is **at the beginning**:

at the beginning of the concert at the beginning of January

In the end = finally. We use **in the end** when we say what the final result of a situation was:

- We had a lot of problems with our car. **In the end** we sold it and bought another one.
- He got more and more angry. **In the end** he just walked out of the room.
- Tom couldn't decide where to go for his holidays. He decided to go Italy **in the end**.

just in time (to avoid hitting the dog).