

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)

