

## Prepositions of Time

### What is a preposition?

Prepositions are words that precede a noun or pronoun and express a relation between it and another word. A preposition of time can express when something happens at one point in time or when something happens over an extended period of time.

Prepositions Expressing One Point In Time		
Preposition	How It's Used	Examples
<b>On</b>	Used with days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We are meeting for lunch <i>on</i> Friday.</li> <li>▪ The midterm is <i>on</i> Tuesday.</li> <li>▪ Finals start <i>on</i> the 12th.</li> </ul>
<b>At</b>	Used with times of the day, including noon, midnight, and night.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ I will arrive <i>at</i> 7 p.m.</li> <li>▪ Most animals sleep <i>at</i> night.</li> <li>▪ I woke up <i>at</i> noon.</li> </ul>
<b>In</b>	Used with other parts of the day ( <i>not</i> night, noon, or midnight), with months, with years, and with seasons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ I brew coffee <i>in</i> the morning.</li> <li>▪ He graduated <i>in</i> 2008.</li> <li>▪ They got married <i>in</i> June.</li> <li>▪ The roads get icy <i>in</i> winter.</li> </ul>

Prepositions Expressing Extended Time		
Preposition	How It's Used	Examples
<b>Since</b>	Expresses an action or state that was started and is still happening.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He has been working on it <i>since</i> last year.</li> <li>▪ She has lived here <i>since</i> 1988.</li> </ul>
<b>For</b>	Expresses the duration of an action or event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ I will be gone <i>for</i> a day.</li> <li>▪ She was sick <i>for</i> a week.</li> </ul>
<b>From &amp; To/Until</b>	Expresses the beginning and end of a period of time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ I will be here <i>from</i> Monday <i>to</i> Friday.</li> <li>▪ He lived in San Jose <i>from</i> 1995 <i>to</i> 2005.</li> <li>▪ My office hours are <i>from</i> 12 p.m. <i>to</i> 3 p.m.</li> <li>▪ The road is closed <i>from</i> March <i>until</i> June.</li> </ul>
<b>During</b>	Expresses a period of time over which an action occurs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ I read a book <i>during</i> my lunch break.</li> <li>▪ Owls sleep <i>during</i> the day.</li> </ul>
<b>Within</b>	Used to show something will take place before a certain time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ He will graduate <i>within</i> a year of entering the program. (No later than one year from his entry.)</li> <li>▪ I will be there <i>within</i> 30 minutes.</li> </ul>

### Provide the correct preposition:

1. I will complete all of my chores \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday.
2. We went on vacation \_\_\_\_\_ two weeks.
3. You must complete the in-class essay \_\_\_\_\_ one hour.
4. I normally go to bed \_\_\_\_\_ 10 p.m. sharp.
5. Helen has been a vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ 2006.
6. Paul could not stay alert \_\_\_\_\_ the presentation.
7. The keynote speaker arrives \_\_\_\_\_ noon.
8. Tim and Alice got married \_\_\_\_\_ 1997.
9. The play runs \_\_\_\_\_ January \_\_\_\_\_ July.
10. My dog likes to go for a walk \_\_\_\_\_ the afternoon.

Key: 1. on 2. for 3. within 4. at 5. since 6. during 7. at 8. in 9. from, to/until 10. in

Works Consulted:

"Prepositions of Time, Place, and to Introduce Objects." [The OWL at Purdue](http://www.english.purdue.edu/handouts/es/eslprep4.html). Purdue University Writing Lab. 29 October 2008. <<http://www.english.purdue.edu/handouts/es/eslprep4.html>>.