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

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| On          | Used with days. | - We are meeting for lunch on Friday.  
- The midterm is on Tuesday.  
- Finals start on the 12th. |
| At          | Used with times of the day, including noon, midnight, and night. | - I will arrive at 7 p.m.  
- Most animals sleep at night.  
- I woke up at noon. |
| In          | Used with other parts of the day (not night, noon, or midnight), with months, with years, and with seasons. | - I brew coffee in the morning.  
- He graduated in 2008.  
- They got married in June.  
- The roads get icy in winter. |

Prepositions Expressing Extended Time

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| Since       | Expresses an action or state that was started and is still happening. | - He has been working on it since last year.  
- She has lived here since 1988. |
| For         | Expresses the duration of an action or event. | - I will be gone for a day.  
- She was sick for a week. |
| From & To/Until | Expresses the beginning and end of a period of time. | - I will be here from Monday to Friday.  
- He lived in San Jose from 1995 to 2005.  
- My office hours are from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
- The road is closed from March until June. |
| During      | Expresses a period of time over which an action occurs. | - I read a book during my lunch break.  
- Owls sleep during the day. |
| Within      | Used to show something will take place before a certain time. | - He will graduate within a year of entering the program. (No later than one year from his entry.)  
- I will be there within 30 minutes. |

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: