Prepositions of Time

Prepositions are words that precede a noun or pronoun and express a relationship 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

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

### Prepositions Expressing Extended Time

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Since</strong></td>
<td>Expresses an action or state that was started and is still happening.</td>
<td>He has been working on it since last year. She has lived here since 1988.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>For</strong></td>
<td>Expresses the duration of an action or event.</td>
<td>I will be gone for a day. She was sick for a week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>From &amp; To/Until</strong></td>
<td>Expresses the beginning and end of a period of time.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>During</strong></td>
<td>Expresses a period of time over which an action occurs.</td>
<td>I read a book during my lunch break. Owls sleep during the day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Within</strong></td>
<td>Used to show something will take place before a certain time.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activity
Choose the correct preposition in the following sentences.

1. I will complete all 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 _____ 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.

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

References