



## Usage

We use prepositions of time to talk about **when** something happens.

- e.g. The chef will start cooking **at** 5 pm.
- e.g. Many people enjoy going to the beach **in** summer.
- e.g. Church choirs sing Christmas carols **on** Christmas Eve.
- e.g. I was in the school football team **between** 2013 and 2014.
- e.g. Joining the 30 Hour Famine, Joe has not eaten anything **since** yesterday morning.



## Part 1 At, In, On, During

The prepositions *at*, *in*, *on*, *since*, *for* and *during* are used in the following ways:

Preposition	Used with...	Example
<b>At</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• exact moments of time</li> <li>• festivals</li> <li>• meals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>at</b> 9 am, <b>at</b> noon, <b>at</b> midnight</li> <li>• <b>at</b> Chinese New Year, <b>at</b> Easter</li> <li>• <b>at</b> breakfast, <b>at</b> lunch, <b>at</b> dinner</li> </ul>
<b>In</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• parts of the day</li> <li>• months</li> <li>• seasons</li> <li>• years</li> <li>• centuries</li> <li>• a period of time in the past / future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>in</b> <u>the</u> morning, <b>in</b> <u>the</u> evening</li> <li>• <b>in</b> August, <b>in</b> December</li> <li>• <b>in</b> (the) spring, <b>in</b> (the) autumn</li> <li>• <b>in</b> 2015</li> <li>• <b>in</b> <u>the</u> 21<sup>st</sup> century</li> <li>• <b>in</b> <u>the</u> past, <b>in</b> <u>the</u> future</li> </ul>

Preposition	Used with...	Example
<b>On</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• days of the week</li> <li>• special days</li> <li>• dates</li> <li>• parts of a specific day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>on</b> Monday, <b>on</b> Wednesday</li> <li>• <b>on</b> Christmas Day, <b>on</b> my birthday</li> <li>• <b>on</b> 19<sup>th</sup> September, <b>on</b> 1<sup>st</sup> January</li> <li>• <b>on</b> Sunday morning</li> </ul>
<b>Since</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the start of a period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>since</b> last school year, <b>since</b> 2015</li> </ul>
<b>For</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a length of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>for</b> two years, <b>for</b> five hours, <b>for</b> a long time</li> </ul>
<b>During</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a period of time</li> <li>• activities, events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>during</b> <u>the</u> day</li> <li>• <b>during</b> <u>the</u> picnic, <b>during</b> <u>the</u> test</li> </ul>



### Educator's Tips



**We** can use either *at* or *on* with *the weekend*.

**e.g.** I usually go hiking **at** / **on** the weekend.

**We** use *at* with *night*; while we use *during* with *the night*.

**X** *at* / *in* the night      ✓ *at* night / *during* the night



## Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions of time.

- Do not use your mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_ the exam.
- Eva and Keith graduated from university \_\_\_\_\_ 2018.  
They haven't met each other \_\_\_\_\_ years since then.
- Why do we always have turkey \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas?
- We are going to Ocean Park \_\_\_\_\_ my birthday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2016, K-pop music has become very popular.
- Miss Williams will join a singing competition \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday afternoon.
- Nina and Jason are planning to get married \_\_\_\_\_ spring.  
Their wedding banquet will be \_\_\_\_\_ 16<sup>th</sup> February, 20XX.
- Timmy was very tired yesterday. He fell asleep \_\_\_\_\_ lunch.  
He said he got up very early \_\_\_\_\_ the morning.
- Mum works hard \_\_\_\_\_ the day and goes to bed early \_\_\_\_\_  
night. She likes to go picnicking with us \_\_\_\_\_ the weekend.





## Part 2 Prepositional Phrases of Time

The prepositional phrases of time *from...to* / *until...* and *between...and...* can be used to talk about something happening during a period of time.

**e.g.** Sakura blossoms **from** February **to** / **until** April in Japan.

**e.g.** The final exam is **between** 7 June **and** 15 June. Students are welcome to consult their teachers **between** these days.



### Educator's Tips

**We** can also use *between...and...* to talk about something happening within a period of time, but we do not know the exact time it happens.

**e.g.** Mum will have a spa treatment **between** 10 am **and** 2 pm tomorrow.

(We do not know the exact time of Mum's appointment.)



## Exercise 2

Decide whether the underlined words are correct or not. If they are correct, put a tick (✓) in the spaces provided. If they are incorrect, write the correct words there.

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Sam studied for the exam <u>in</u> midnight.  | 1. _____ <i>at</i> _____ |
| 2. The exhibition will last from tomorrow <u>until</u> the coming Sunday.                              | 2. _____                 |
| 3. Lewis has football practice between 9 am <u>to</u> 11 am.   | 3. _____                 |
| 4. I am going to have a birthday party <u>in</u> Sunday.   | 4. _____                 |
| 5. The price of plane tickets increases <u>on</u> holiday seasons.                                     | 5. _____                 |
| 6. Are you free to go out with me <u>on</u> the weekend?   | 6. _____                 |
| 7. Fiona worked in that company from 2000 <u>and</u> 2004.   | 7. _____                 |
| 8. Don't be late! You must arrive <u>on</u> 2 pm.  | 8. _____                 |
| 9. What are the greatest inventions <u>on</u> the 20 <sup>th</sup> and the 21 <sup>st</sup> centuries? | 9. _____                 |
| 10. Phil was a bit nervous <u>in</u> the first day of school.  | 10. _____                |

## Unit Recap

Sarah is writing a biography about the famous singer, Jay Chou. Complete the biography with the correct prepositions or prepositional phrases.

### A Talented Singer-Songwriter: Jay Chou

Mixing Chinese elements into Western R&B music and singing in a unique voice, Jay Chou has attracted many fans all over the world with these distinctive features in his music.



Jay Chou was born **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1979.

**(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ the age of 3, he started to learn to play the piano. From then on, music has become an important part of his life.

Jay Chou's first **appearance** on TV was **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ the summer of 1997. He played the piano in a talent contest but he didn't win. Afterwards, he had a chance to work for a music company. **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ that period of time, he created many popular songs. He released his first album **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ 2000 and it was a great success. Since then, he has become a well-known artist **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Jay Chou has won many awards. He was the winner of the IFPI Top 10 Selling Mandarin Albums of the Year **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ 2002 until 2006. He was also awarded as the Best Male Mandarin Artist **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ 2009 and 2011 **respectively**.

Jay Chou had his world tour in 2013. This tour was between May **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ November, 2013. Eason Chan was the special guest of the concert **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

With such a creative music style, no wonder Jay Chou is so influential to Asian popular culture. His story tells us the importance of being different.

P.5



#### Vocabulary:

appearance (n.): an act of appearing in public

respectively (adv.): separately