

21st June 2024

Language – Time: Prepositions and Conjunctions

Which prepositions could we use with these different time words and phrases?

Preposition	Time Word/Phrase
at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • night • the weekend • 6pm / six o'clock • Eid / Easter • lunchtime
in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the morning/afternoon/evening • June • 2019 • the summer • the 21st century • the past/future • the last week/few days
on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday • 20th June • Thursday morning • weekdays • my birthday • on Christmas day

We can also use the following words to indicate time:

- After
- Before
- Until – Up to a point: I will work here **until I go** to university.
- When
- While – While **I was watching** TV, I was reading the newspaper.
- By
- Since
- For
- During – During **the lesson**, I was reading the newspaper.

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate time word.

There may be more than one answer...

1. Please finish the report **before** the meeting starts.
2. He took a nap **while/when** the movie was playing.
3. I lived in Newcastle **for** five years.
4. She has been working here **since** 2015.
5. He will wait **until/till** you arrive.
6. We need to leave **by/before** 6pm to catch the train.
7. She read a book **during** the flight.
8. They met **while/when** they were studying in college.
9. I will call you **after/before/when** I finish my homework.
10. She studied hard **while/when** she was preparing for her exams.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After • Before • Until • When • While • By • Since • For • During |
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What part of speech are these time words?

Preposition (followed by a noun (phrase) or a pronoun)	Conjunction (followed by a clause)
before / for / since / until / by / during / after	before / while / when / until / since / after

We can also use 'while', 'when', 'after' and 'before' with an -ing verb:

- She read a book while (she was) **waiting** for the bus.
- I listen to music when (I am) **cooking**.
- After (we had been) **sitting** for such a long time, we decided to go for a walk.
- Please fill in the form before **seeing** the dentist.
Please fill in the form before **you see** the dentist.

Identify and correct the errors in these sentences:

1. In Thursday 21st July 2017, Mr Symonds visited the clinic.
2. On her physical examination, infection was noted.
3. Ms Sharma fell and cut her head when walk.
4. I like to listen to podcasts after I go to sleep.
5. This report must be finished until Wednesday.
6. During attending the OET exam, you should concentrate.
7. The police officer contacted the fire service while burning.
8. We live in this house since five years.

When we describe processes, procedures or sequences of events, we can use sequencing words such as:

- firstly / secondly / thirdly / finally / lastly
- next / after that / following that / then
- after / before

Choose one and use sequencing words to write a description of one of the following situations:

1. How to use a syringe or needle
2. What you did before the lesson this morning
3. How you can do the OET Writing exam effectively

Send your homework to: laurence@set-english.com