

## A BRIEF ENGLISH LESSON: FEBRUARY 04

Prepositions in English can be quite tricky. Often there are no clear rules – and it's best to learn the preposition at the same time as you learn to use the word it goes with. Sometimes it helps to learn all the prepositions used with a particular topic, such as *time*. And, the lesson for this month is ***Prepositions of Time***. Here they are:

- ON* Saturday  
July 2nd  
his birthday, an occasion, your retirement etc.  
Saturday morning, afternoon etc  
Christmas *day*  
the weekend (US)
- IN* March  
1981  
the morning, the afternoon, the evening  
the summer, the winter, the autumn, the spring  
the middle (of August)
- AT* three o' clock  
night  
midnight, midday  
Christmas, Easter  
the beginning, the end (of May)  
the weekend (GB)  
the moment

And there is normally NO preposition before:  
the other day  
yesterday  
yesterday morning, yesterday afternoon etc.  
last week, last night, last Tuesday etc.  
next week, next month, next Friday etc.

***Ready to test yourself?*** Put the correct preposition in the gaps in the sentences below. Remember, sometimes there should be NO preposition in the gap.

1. The Queen' s official birthday is .... June.
2. He goes skiing .... Christmas and .... Easter.
3. The company was founded .... 1942.
4. I spoke to him .... last Tuesday.
5. Looking forward to seeing you .... 12th October.
6. The annual general meeting will be held .... 11.15 am ..... 5th February.
7. She came to Switzerland .... the beginning of January and returns to Spain .... the middle of May.
8. He says he works best after 9 o'clock .... night, but my best ideas usually come early .... the morning.

9. I tried to call you .... yesterday afternoon.
10. I am a bit busy .... the moment.
11. We started the project .... June, last year and hope to finish it .... next month.
12. I could meet you .... Wednesday if that suits you.

***And the answers?***

1. The Queen' s official birthday ~~is~~**in** June.
2. He goes skiing **at** Christmas and **at** Easter.
3. The company was founded **in** 1942.
4. I spoke to him \* last Tuesday. (\***no** preposition!)
5. Looking forward to seeing you **on** 12th October.
6. The annual general meeting will be held **at** 11.15 am **on** 5th February.
7. She came to Switzerland **at** the beginning of January and returns to Spain **in** the middle of May.
8. He says he works best after 9 o'clock **at** night, but my best ideas usually come early **in** the morning.
9. I tried to call you \* yesterday afternoon. (\***no** preposition!)
10. I am a bit busy **at** the moment.
11. We started the project **in** June, last year and hope to finish it \* next month. (\***no** preposition!)
12. I could meet you **on** Wednesday if that suits you.