

Most parts of the day: in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening

Periods of time: in the future, in the Victorian era, in the minutes before you called

Holiday periods: in the Christmas holidays, in the summer vacation

Weeks: in the first week of June

Months: in May

Seasons: in summer

Years: in 2012

Decades: in the 80s

Centuries: in the 1600s

IN

Print media: in the newspaper, in a book

Transport in which you stay seated: in a car, in a taxi

Neighborhoods: in Williamsburg

Cities: in Moscow

Countries: in Mexico

Regions: in the Pacific Northwest

Continents: in Africa

We use **in + amount of time** to say how long until something starts in the future or how long it takes to do something.

*The show starts **in ten minutes**.*

*We got there **in four hours**.*

Day + part of a day: on Friday evening

Days: on Thursday, on rainy days, on weekdays

Special days with 'day': on Valentine's Day

Dates: on September 3rd, on the 12th of December

Weekend: on the weekend (US)

ON

Audio-visual media: on television, on the radio, on the internet

Streets, roads, avenues, etc: on Queen St, on Madison Avenue

Transport on which you can stand or straddle: on a bus, on a boat, on an airplane, on a train, on a skateboard, on a horse, on a bicycle, on a motorcycle

Amusement park rides: on a roller coaster, on the log flume

Planets: on Earth, on Mars

Some examples on this page are only usually true. We mostly use **in** with cars, but we can also say the following:

*I left my briefcase **on the car**. (= on top of the car)*

*I'll meet you **at the car**. (= next to the car)*

We use **at** with locations, but sometimes we want to be more specific and use **in** or **on**:

*I'm **on the museum!** (on top of the museum)*

*I'm **in a cafe** right now, so I'm safe from the rain.*

(inside a cafe)

Times: at a quarter to eleven, at 3:20 p.m.

Times with names: at midnight, at noon, at sunrise

This part of the day: at night

Weekend: at the weekend (UK)

The time around a holiday: at Christmas, at Thanksgiving

AT

Addresses: at 17 Kent Street

Specific locations: at the park, at the Empire State Building, at the Zoo, at a bakery, at home, at work, at university, at a party

At night is more common, but **in the night** is possible and slightly different. It tends to be used for a specific night, and it emphasizes the time when it's dark and most people are sleeping.

*I woke up **in the night**.*

*She works **at night**.*

In, **on**, and **at** also appear in phrasal verbs. They may retain some of their original meaning or it may have been lost:

*Don't **give in!** (= don't yield)*

***Hold on**, I'm almost ready. (= wait)*

*I **kept at** it until I understood. (= kept trying)*