

Time Phrases Review

AM refers to the morning.

PM refers to the evening or nighttime.

However, abbreviations like AM and PM should not be used in your writing. Instead, you should write out morning or night.

Ago: (refers to a previous time – and is used with the past tense)

Ex: A year ago I went to California for summer vacation.

In (is often used with phrases for the time of day e.g. morning/afternoon, and months and seasons) vs. On (may be used with weekdays, Ex: On Thursdays he has three classes.)

**Note that the word night is the only exception to the 'in' rule. The preposition 'at' is used with night. Ex: He likes to go to parties at night.

Other phrases for nighttime: tonight, tomorrow night, (if you want to talk about the night yesterday, you just use last night).

More Examples with in:

Ex: I must get ready for school in the morning. I have two breaks from school in the fall.

Yesterday (The day before today), Today (The current day), Tomorrow (The day after today) -- These words are most commonly used at the beginning of sentences; however, they can also be placed towards the end.

Ex: Yesterday I went to the movies. OR I went to the movies yesterday.

Last (Past), Next (Future):

Ex: Last month I studied abroad.

Ex: Next year she will graduate from college.

O'clock is used to refer to a time/hour of a clock, e.g. two o'clock is 2:00 PM

Note: Teachers generally prefer that you write out the numbers notated for specific times.

Ex: 7:00 PM → Written Form: seven o'clock in the evening

Review: Time Phrases and Prepositions

in	on	at	during	next	last	will	ago	when	o'clock
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Directions: Read the questions, then look at the words in the word box above. Choose the answer that is the most appropriate for each fill in the blank and description. Note that some words in the word box are used more than once.

1. ___ year she will graduate college.
2. She went to Wyoming a month ___.
3. Did you study abroad ___ semester?
4. Tomorrow, I ___ visit my relatives.
5. _____ : This Preposition is commonly used with phrases that express the time of day.
6. _____ : This Preposition usually precedes events and phrases for days of the week.
7. _____ : This Preposition is used with specific times on a clock.
8. He likes to go to parties ___ the weekends.
9. She always talks in her sleep ___ night.
10. He has three classes ___ the afternoon.
11. 'What time' is more specific than _____.
12. _____ is used to specify the hour.
13. The word ___ is used to frame the time of an event or to describe when an action occurred.
14. Completing something _____ time is finishing something while meeting the constraints of a time already set.
15. Completing something _____ time is finishing something prior to a schedule, deadline, or timed arrangement.

Key: Review Time Phrases and Prepositions

in on at during next last will ago when o'clock

Directions: Read the questions, then look at the words in the word box above. Choose the answer that is the most appropriate for each fill in the blank and description. Note that some words in the word box are used more than once.

1. ___ year she will graduate college. Answer: **Next**
2. She went to Wyoming a month _____. Answer: **ago**
3. Did you study abroad ___ semester? Answer: **last**
4. Tomorrow, I ___ visit my relatives. Answer: **will**
5. _____: This Preposition is commonly used with phrases that express the time of day.
Answer: **in**
6. _____: This Preposition usually precedes events and phrases for days of the week.
Answer: **on**
7. _____: This Preposition is used with specific times on a clock.
Answer: **at**
8. He likes to go to parties ___ the weekends. Answer: **on**
9. She always talks in her sleep ___ night. Answer: **at**
10. He has three classes ___ the afternoon. Answer: **in**
11. 'What time' is more specific than _____. Answer: **when**
12. _____ is used to specify the hour. Answer: **o'clock**
13. The word _____ is used to frame the time of an event or to describe when an action occurred.
Answer: **during**
14. Completing something _____ time is finishing something while meeting the constraints of a time already set. Answer: **in**
15. Completing something _____ time is finishing something prior to a schedule, deadline, or timed arrangement. Answer: **on**