

Grammar reference


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Verb phrases

The present

Present simple

**Focus**

We use the present simple for:

habits or routines	<i>We have lessons every day.</i>
repeated actions	<i>I often forget English words.</i>
general truths	<i>They speak Spanish in Mexico.</i>
scientific facts	<i>Apples have vitamin C in them.</i>
thoughts and feelings	<i>I like oranges.</i>

Adverbs of frequency usually go before the main verb.
(See Adverbs on page 84.)

*I **often listen** to English songs.*

*I **don't always understand** them.*



She **always drinks** banana juice.

We form the present simple with the infinitive form of the verb.

Affirmative	Negative	Questions
I speak two languages.	She doesn't like grammar.	How do you practise your English? Does she make a lot of mistakes?

Affirmative		Negative		Questions		Short answers	
I	know.	I	don't	Do	I	Yes,	do.
You	help.	You	(do not)		you	No,	don't. (do not)
He	know s . help s .	He	doesn't (does not)	Does	he	Yes,	does.
She		She			she	No,	doesn't. (does not)
It		It			it		
We	know. help.	We	don't (do not)	Do	we	Yes,	do.
You		You			you	No,	don't. (do not)
They		They			they		

The spelling of the verb in affirmative sentences only changes with a 3rd person singular subject (*he, she, it*).

Spelling of present simple 3rd person singular verbs			
[+ -s] most verbs	[+ -es] verbs ending in -o, -s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x	[-y] + [-ies] verbs ending in consonant + -y	Irregulars
enjoy – enjoy s forget – forget s learn – learn s think – think s write – write s	go – go es guess – guess es finish – finish es watch – watch es fix – fix es	fly – fly ies study – stud ies tidy – tid ies try – tr ies	be – is have – has

Present continuous



Hi! I'm standing at the top of a mountain. We're staying in Chamonix for a few days. We're going home on Friday.

Focus

We use the present continuous for:

- activities happening now
- activities happening around the time of speaking
- future activities that are already arranged

I'm standing at the top of a mountain.
We're staying in Chamonix for a few days.
We're going home on Friday.

We form the present continuous with the present simple of to be + verb + -ing.

Affirmative	Negative	Questions
I'm watching a film.	He isn't playing tennis.	Are they shopping? Where is he studying?

Affirmative	Negative	Questions	Short answers
I'm (am)	I'm not (am not)	Am I	Yes, I am.
You are	You aren't (are not)	Are you	No, I'm not. (am not)
He's (is)	He isn't (is not)	Is he	Yes, you are.
She's (is)	She isn't (is not)	Is she	No, you aren't. (are not)
It's (is)	It isn't (is not)	Is it	Yes, he is.
We're (are)	We aren't (are not)	Are we	No, he isn't. (is not)
You're (are)	You aren't (are not)	Are you	Yes, she is.
They're (are)	They aren't (are not)	Are they	No, it isn't. (is not)
			Yes, we are.
			No, you aren't. (are not)

Spelling of verbs + -ing		
[+ -ing] most verbs	[-e] + [-ing] verbs ending in -e	[double consonant] + [-ing] verbs ending in short vowel + consonant
do – doing go – going study – studying watch – watching	come – coming give – giving live – living ride – riding	shop – shopping sit – sitting swim – swimming travel – travelling

Present simple and present continuous

Present simple	Present continuous
For habits or routines, repeated actions, general truths, scientific facts and thoughts and feelings.	For activities happening now and around the time of speaking.
Affirmative	
I usually go to the sports centre at the weekend.	I'm going to the sports centre.
Negative	
My dad doesn't work on Mondays.	My mum isn't working today. She's at home.
Questions	
How often do you play computer games?	Why are you playing computer games?
Time expressions	
We often use time expressions for repeated actions.	We often use time expressions for present or temporary actions.
every morning / afternoon / evening every day / week / month / year on Mondays / Tuesdays at the weekend usually / often / sometimes / never	now / right now / at the moment today / tonight this morning / afternoon / evening / weekend
Stative verbs	
We nearly always use the present simple with verbs for thinking and feeling and sense verbs.	
thinking: <i>believe, know, understand, mean, remember</i> feeling: <i>like, hate, enjoy, love</i> senses: <i>hear, see, taste, smell</i> <i>I don't understand</i> what you're saying. <i>I love</i> chocolate. <i>This tastes</i> good!	

Information questions

Focus


After a question word or phrase, use an auxiliary or other verb and then the subject.



Questions with:	Ask about:	
What ...?	a thing or things	What are they doing?
Who ...?	a person or people	Who's your best friend?
When ...?	a time or date	When is your birthday?
What time ...?	a time	What time does the shop close?
Where ...?	a place	Where are the people?
Why ...?	a reason	Why are you phoning your dad?
Which (+ noun) ...?	a thing or things	Which free time activities do you do?
How old ...?	age	How old are you?
How long ...?	a period of time	How long is the film?

The future

Present continuous – future arrangements

**Focus**

We use the present continuous for future activities that are already arranged:


*Are you **doing** anything next weekend?*
*I'm **going** on holiday tomorrow.*

See page 73 for how to form the present continuous.

We often use these time phrases with the present continuous to refer to the future.

	on	at	in
this evening	on Friday	at six o'clock	in March
tonight / tomorrow	on Thursday morning	at the weekend	in five minutes
tomorrow morning / afternoon / evening	on Sunday afternoon	at Christmas	in summer
next week / month / year	on Saturday evening		
	on 26th May		

will/won't

**Focus**

We use **will** and **won't** for making predictions about the future:

*The spaceship **will** crash in one minute.*
*It **won't** hurt.*



What **will** they **do** to the spaceship?

The form is **will** + infinitive without **to**. **Will** has the same form for all persons.

Affirmative	Negative	Questions
We'll meet again.	You won't feel anything.	Will we find the planet?

Affirmative			Negative			Questions			Short answers		
I			I				I		Yes,	I	will.
You			You				you			you	
He			He				he			he	won't.
She			She				she			she	
It	will	go.	It	won't	go.	Will	it	go?		it	
We			We				we		No,	we	
You			You				you			you	
They			They				they			they	

Expressions to talk about the future

We often use these expressions when we talk about the future.

I hope I think Maybe I'm sure	I'll I won't	get married. have children. be famous. be rich. live abroad. go to university.
I don't think I doubt	I'll	
I'll	probably	
I	probably won't	



going to – intentions

Focus
We use the **going to** future to talk about intentions:
I'm going to stop eating sweets.


We form the **going to** future with the present tense of **be** + **going to** + infinitive without **to**.

Affirmative	Negative	Questions	Short answers
I'm going to stop .	He isn't going to stop .	Are they going to stop ?	Yes, they are .

Affirmative + Negative				Questions				Short answers		
I'm	I'm not	going to	stop. help.	Am	I	going to	stop? help?	Yes,	I	am.
You're	You aren't			Are	you			No,		'm not.
He's	He isn't			Is	he			Yes,	you	are.
She's	She isn't				she			No,		aren't.
It's	It isn't				it			Yes,	he	is.
We're	We aren't				we			No,	she	isn't.
You're	You aren't			Are	you			Yes,	we	are.
They're	They aren't				they			No,	you	aren't.

The past

Past simple: to be

**Focus**

We use the past simple of *to be* (*was/were*) for situations and moments in the past:

I was in New York in July.

We were cold yesterday.

I was in London three days ago.

I wasn't at school last Monday.

When were you born?



We form the past simple of *to be* like this.


Affirmative			Negative			Questions			Short answers		
I	was	on holiday. at home.	I	wasn't (was not)	on holiday. at home.	Was	I	on holiday? at home?	Yes,	I	was.
						No,			wasn't.		
You	were		You	weren't (were not)		Were	you		Yes,	you	were.
						No,			weren't.		
He	was		He	wasn't (was not)		Was	he she it		on holiday? at home?	Yes,	he she it
She		She	No,		wasn't.						
It		It									
We	were	We	weren't (were not)	Were	we you they	Yes,	we you they	were.			
You		You				No,		weren't.			
They		They									

Past time expressions

We often use time expressions with the past simple.

yesterday ...		last ago	
... morning	... afternoon	... night	... Friday	five minutes ...	two hours ...
... evening	... at six o'clock	... week	... weekend	three days ...	a long time ...
		... month	... year		

there was/were

**Focus**

We use *there was/were* to describe past situations:


There were dangerous animals in the jungle.

There was a river.

Were there crocodiles in the river?

	Affirmative	Negative	Questions	Short answers
Singular	There was a storm.	There wasn't any food.	Was there an accident?	Yes, there was. No, there wasn't.
Plural	There were 50 people on the plane.	There weren't any survivors.	Were there any survivors?	Yes, there were. No, there weren't.

Past simple: regular and irregular verbs

**Focus**

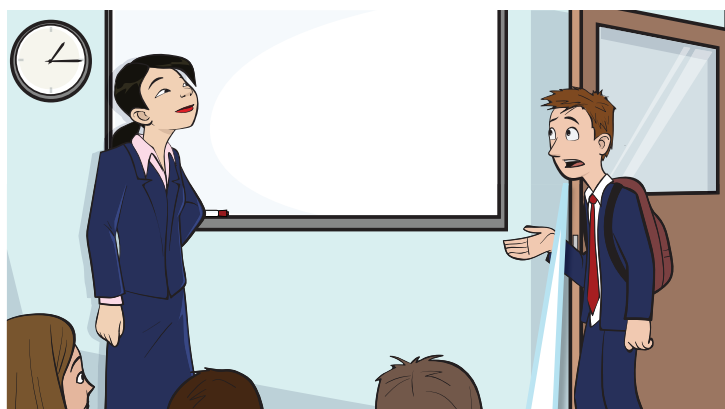
We use the past simple for finished actions and events in the past:

*The plane **exploded**.*

*Juliane **fell** 3,000 metres.*

*She **landed** in some trees.*

*The fall **didn't** kill her.*



Sorry I'm late, Miss. I **missed** the school bus, so I **walked** here. On the way I **saw** a cat in a tree. I **climbed** the tree and the cat **jumped** down, but then I **couldn't** get down. I **called** the fire brigade, but they **didn't come** for a long time. What **did** you **do** this morning?

In the past simple we use the same form for all persons.

Affirmative	Negative	Questions
We visit ed Spain. I went to the beach.	We didn't visit Italy. She didn't go swimming.	Who did you visit ? Did you go on holiday?

Affirmative

The past simple affirmative form of verbs depends on whether they are regular or irregular.

Regular verbs		Irregular verbs	
These have an -ed ending.		Many common verbs are irregular. Irregular verbs don't have the -ed ending, so you have to learn them. There's a list of irregular verbs on page 93.	
I		I	
You	learn ed how to swim.	You	[have] had a great time.
He	stay ed with my grandparents.	He	[go] went abroad.
She	travell ed there by car.	She	[eat] ate a lot of fish.
It	visit ed a lot of places.	It	[do] did a lot of fun things.
We	walk ed in the mountains.	We	[make] made some new friends.
You	watch ed films.	You	
They		They	

Spelling of regular past simple verbs			
[+ -ed] most verbs	[+ -d] verbs ending in -e	[-y] + [-ied] verbs ending in consonant + -y	[double consonant] + [-ed] verbs ending in vowel + consonant
play – play ed visit – visit ed walk – walk ed	change – chang d die – die d live – live d	marry – marr ied study – studi ied try – tri ied	plan – plann ed stop – stop ped travel – travell ed

Negative and questions

Past simple negative and questions are the same for regular and irregular verbs.

Negative			Questions		Short answers		
[didn't] + infinitive			[Did] + infinitive				
I	didn't (did not)	like it. go home.	Did	I	Yes,	I	did.
You				you		you	
He				he	No,	he	didn't. (did not)
She				she		she	
It				it		it	
We				we		we	
You				you		you	
They				they		they	

Past information questions

Focus

After a question word or phrase, use **did** + the infinitive form of the verb.

Questions about ...	Question word	did	subject	infinitive
a thing	What	did	the men	do ?
a person	Who		Malala	see ?
a time	When		the classes	start ?
a place	Where		they	meet ?
a reason	Why		she	cry ?

Question phrase	did	subject	infinitive
Which school	did	you	go to ?
How many blog posts		she	write ?



Modal verbs

Using modal verbs

Focus

Modal verbs are a special group of auxiliary verbs. We use them before main verbs to express different meanings, for example, permission, obligation and possibility.

Modal verbs have different grammar from other verbs:

- They have the same form for all persons.
- They don't have an infinitive form.
- We form the negative with modal verb + **not**.
- They don't use *do/does/did* in questions.
- They don't have *-ing/-ed* forms.
- They are followed by the infinitive (without *to*).

Affirmative			Negative			Questions			Short answers		
I			I				I			I	can.
You			You				you		Yes,	you	could.
He	can		He	can't		Can	he			he	must.
She	could		She	couldn't		Could	she			she	will.
It	must	go.	It	mustn't	go.	Must	it	go?		it	can't.
We	will		We	won't		Will	we		No,	we	couldn't.
You			You				you			you	mustn't.
They			They				they			they	won't.

can/can't

Focus

We use **can/can't** for:
abilities

I can play the guitar, but I can't sing.

asking for permission

Can I borrow your book, please?

Mum, it's dark. **Can I go out?** I **can see** in the dark.



OK, then. You **can go out**.

could/couldn't

Focus

We use **could/couldn't**:

as the past form of **can/can't** for abilities in the past

When I was six, I could ride a bike, but I couldn't swim.

I couldn't go out yesterday because I had to finish my homework.

for polite requests and responses

Could you help me? Yes, of course I **could**.

Could I borrow your car? Yes, of course you **could**.

must/mustn't

Focus

We use **must** to say it's necessary to do something:

You **must** be home by midnight.

We use **mustn't** to say it's important **not** to do something:

You **mustn't** be late.

Remember: for actions that are not necessary, we use **don't have to**:

We **don't have to** be home before midnight.



The form is **must** + infinitive without **to**. **Must** has the same form for all persons.

Affirmative			Negative			Questions
I			I			
You			You			To ask about obligation, we usually use have to .
He			He			
She			She			When do we have to be home? Does she have to do a lot of homework?
It	must	go.	It	mustn't	go.	
We			We			
You			You			
They			They			

have to / don't have to

Focus

We use **have to**:

to say that it's necessary or important to do something

My mum **has to** get up very early.

to say that it's not necessary or important to do something

We **don't have to** go to school on Saturday.

Have to is followed by the infinitive form of the verb without **to**.

Affirmative	Negative	Questions
I have to get up early.	I don't have to wear a uniform.	Do you have to do the housework? What time does she have to get up ?

Affirmative			Negative			Questions			Short answers		
I			I	don't		Do	I		Yes, I	do.	
You	have to		You	have to			you		No, you	don't.	
He			He				he		Yes, he	does.	
She	has to	go.	She	doesn't	go.	Does	she	have to	No, she	doesn't.	
It		get up early.	It	have to	get up early.		it		Yes, it		
We			We			Do	we		No, they	do.	
You	have to		You	don't			you		Yes, you	do.	
They			They	have to			they		No, they	don't.	

The infinitive and the -ing form

Verb + -ing form and verb + to + infinitive

Focus

When we use two verbs together, the second verb can be an **-ing** form or an **infinitive** with **to**:
*I enjoy **looking** after young kids, but I don't want **to be** a teacher.*

Verb + -ing form		Verb + to + infinitive	
like	I like going camping.	would like	I'd like to go camping at the weekend.
love	She loves snorkelling .	want	What do you want to do when you're older?
hate	They hate doing grammar exercises.	learn	He's learning to speak Chinese.
enjoy	Do you enjoy listening to the radio?	remember	I must remember to take my books.
stop	Please stop making that noise!	forget	Don't forget to do your homework.
start	He's going to start running .	start	She started to run when she saw a bear.

to be good at + -ing form

Focus

We use the **-ing** form of the verb after **to be good at**.
*To be an architect, you have to **be good at drawing**.*



Our robot is really **good at** **doing** the housework, but he **hates** **cooking**.

Infinitive of purpose

Focus

We use **to** + the **infinitive** form of the verb to express purpose:
*Many people do sport **to get fit**.*

Complex sentences

Clauses

Focus

A **clause** is part of a sentence. A clause always has a **subject** and a **verb**.
 Complex sentences have two or more clauses.
 All complex sentences have a main clause and a dependent clause.

Main clause	Dependent clause	
The plane exploded	when lightning hit it.	Time clause
I don't walk to school	if it rains.	Condition clause

If the dependent clause comes first, we write a comma between the clauses.

When lightning hit it	,	the plane exploded.
If it rains	,	I don't walk to school.

Time clauses

Focus

We use *after*, *before*, *when* and *while* to connect a main clause and a time clause in a sentence.

Main clause		Time clause
She was unconscious for hours	after	she fell.
Juliane Köpcke fell 3,000 metres	before	she landed in some trees.
The plane from Peru exploded	when	lightning hit it.
Juliane ate only a few sweets	while	she was in the jungle.

Conditionals

Zero conditional

Focus

We use **zero conditional** sentences to say that one thing always happens with another:
If the weather is good, I walk to school. Who drives you to school if it rains?

We use the present simple in both clauses.

We write a comma after the *If* clause when it is at the beginning of the sentence.

If clause = condition		Main clause = result
If it snows a lot	,	we go skiing at the weekend.

We can change the order of the two clauses.

First conditional

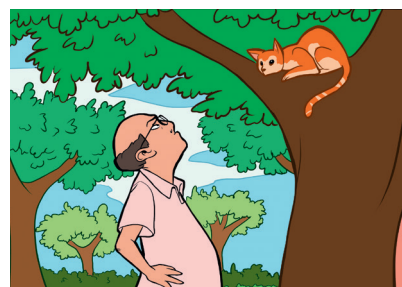
Focus

We use **first conditional** sentences for things that are possible in the future:

If the weather is good tomorrow, we'll go to the lake.

What will you do if it rains?

If it rains, we'll stay at home.



If you don't come down,
you **won't get** any supper!

We use the present simple in the *If* clause and *will/won't* + infinitive without *to* in the main clause.

We write a comma after the *If* clause when it is at the beginning of the sentence.

If clause = condition		Main clause = result
If the weather 's nice on Sunday		we 'll have a picnic.
If I don't feel better tomorrow	,	I won't go to school.

We can change the order of the two clauses.

Adverbs

Adverbs of frequency

Focus

These adverbs usually go **before** a verb, but they go **after** the verb **to be**.

with the present simple			with to be		
the adverbs of frequency go before the verb			the adverbs of frequency go after the verb		
	adverb	main verb		to be	adverb
I	always usually often sometimes hardly ever never	wear red. go shopping.	I	'm	always usually often sometimes hardly ever never
You			You	're	
We			We	're	
They			They	're	
He	always usually often sometimes hardly ever never	wears a hat. looks good.	He	's	happy. smart.
She			She	's	
It			It	's	

Adverbs of manner

Focus

These adverbs usually go after a verb. They describe an action:

The rain fell **heavily**. She started to walk **slowly**. Her arm hurt **badly**.

We usually form these adverbs from adjectives + **-ly**, but there are some irregular adverbs.

Regular + -ly		Irregular	
Adjective	Adverb	Adjective	Adverb
bad	badly	good	well
heavy	heavily	early	early
quiet	quietly	fast	fast
slow	slowly	hard	hard
		late	late

too and very + adjective

Focus

We use the adverbs **too** and **very** before adjectives.

Too has a negative meaning:

We **didn't** swim in the river. It was **too cold**.

It was **too cold** to swim in the river.

Very can be positive or negative:

That film was **very bad**.

No! It was **very good**!



The bag was **too heavy** to take on the plane.

Noun phrases

Nouns

Countable and uncountable nouns



Focus
Nouns in English are **countable** or **uncountable**.

Countable nouns		Uncountable nouns	
Have a singular and plural form. We can count them.	lemon – lemons sweet – sweets vegetable – vegetables apple – apples	Don't have a plural form – they are always singular. We cannot count them.	food fruit water meat money
Use a singular verb with a singular countable noun and use a plural verb with a plural countable noun.	The shop is big. The house is small. The people are in the shop. There are two lemons.	Use a singular verb.	The water is blue. There's s ome food.

Sometimes nouns can be countable or uncountable, depending on the meaning.

	Countable	Uncountable
exercise	I want to do some warm-up exercises before football.	It's good to do a lot of exercise .
coffee	Can I have two coffees , please?	I like coffee .
chocolate	She's got a box of chocolates .	We need some chocolate to make the cake.

Determiners and pronouns

Articles

Focus
We use indefinite and definite articles before nouns.

Indefinite articles		Definite articles	
when we don't know which one/ones we are talking about and with jobs		when we know which one/ones we are talking about	
Indefinite singular	Indefinite plural	Definite singular	Definite plural
a/an	-	the	the
She's a vet. Do you wear a uniform? He's an engineer.	He works with ravens. Ravens are big black birds.	The uniform is red and black.	The ravens sleep in cages at night.

a/an, some and any

Focus

We use **a/an**, **some** and **any** + noun to talk about quantity.

It's important to know whether the noun is countable or uncountable.

	Countable singular noun	Countable plural noun	Uncountable
Affirmative	I want a carrot or an apple.	I want some bananas.	I want some fruit.
Negative	I haven't got a carrot or an apple.	I haven't got any bananas.	I haven't got any fruit.
Questions	Have you got a carrot or an apple?	Have you got any bananas?	Have you got any fruit?
Requests	Can I have a carrot or an apple?	Can I have some bananas?	Can I have some fruit?

much, many and a lot of

Focus

We use **much**, **many** and **a lot of** to talk about quantity.

It's important to know whether the noun is countable or uncountable.

	Countable plural nouns	Uncountable nouns
Affirmative	He eats a lot of sweets.	I eat a lot of fruit.
Negative	She doesn't eat many vegetables.	He doesn't eat much fruit.
Questions	How many sandwich es do you want?	How much bread do you want?

Pronouns

Focus

We use an **object pronoun** as the direct object of a verb, instead of a noun:

*I like snorkelling. → I like **it**.*

We use a **reflexive pronoun** as the object of a verb when the object is the **same** as the subject:

*He's going to look after **himself**.*

Subject pronoun	Object pronoun		Reflexive pronoun	
I	me →	Can you help me ?	myself →	I'm going to do it myself .
you	you →	I can't see you .	yourself →	Can you see yourself in the mirror?
he	him →	She looks after him .	himself →	He looks after himself .
she	her →	I love her .	herself →	She only loves herself .
it	it →	The horse's owner rode it .	itself →	The horse hurt itself when it jumped.
we	us →	She teaches us .	ourselves →	We're teaching ourselves Chinese.
you	you →	They won't take care of you .	yourselves →	You must take care of yourselves .
they	them →	I want to help them .	themselves →	Those people will hurt themselves .

Adjectives

Adjectives and word order

Focus

We use **adjectives** to describe and give information about a noun.
Adjectives go **before** the noun.
Adjectives always have the same form.

Singular	He's	a	noisy	boy.
	She's			girl.
	It's			street.
Plural	They're	noisy		children.

The order of adjectives in front of a noun is important.

	Possessive	Article/Number	Adjective	Colour	Noun
This is	our		new	red	car.
These are	my		smart	black	shoes.
We've got		a	friendly	brown	dog.
There are		two	modern	white	buildings.

Comparatives and superlatives

Focus

We use **comparative** adjective + **than** to compare two things or two groups of things:

This dog is cheaper than that one.

We use **the** + **superlative** adjective to compare something with two or more things:

It's the nicest dog in the shop.

It's the most expensive dog in the shop.

We often use the superlative with these phrases:
in the shop, in my life, in my class, in the world, etc.



Comparatives	Superlatives
My German is better than my English. German grammar is more difficult than Spanish.	The Khmer language has the longest alphabet. E is the most frequent letter in English.

Spelling of comparative and superlative adjectives

	Comparatives		Superlatives	
Short adjectives	+ [-er]	small – smaller	+ [-est]	small – the smallest
Short adjectives ending in -e	+ [-r]	safe – safer	+ [-st]	safe – the safest
One syllable adjectives ending in consonant + vowel + consonant	[double consonant] + [-er]	big – bigger	[double consonant] + [-est]	big – the biggest
Two syllable adjectives ending in -y	[-y] + [-ier]	busy – busier	[-y] + [-iest]	busy – the busiest
Long adjectives with 2 or more syllables	more + adjective	more modern / expensive	the most + adjective	the most modern / expensive
Irregular adjectives	good – better – the best far – further – the furthest bad – worse – the worst			



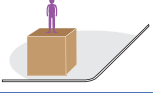




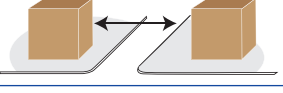
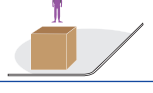
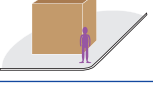
Prepositions

Prepositions of time

at	in	on	during	for
+ times + special phrases	+ parts of the day + months + seasons + years + period of time in the future	+ days of the week + dates	+ noun = when	+ period of time = how long
at six o'clock	in the morning/ afternoon/evening	on Mondays	during the holidays	for two hours
at night	in September	on Tuesday morning	during the week	
at the weekend	in summer	on Wednesday evening		
at Christmas	in 2015	on 26th April		
at the moment	in five minutes			

Prepositions of place

We use prepositions of place to say **where** someone or something is.

in		I live in a small house.	in front of		I'm standing in front of the school.
on		Put it on the table.	behind		My wardrobe is behind the door.
under		His bag is under the desk.	between		I'm sitting between Tom and Sophie.
next to		I'm sitting next to my best friend.	opposite		The café is opposite the cinema.
above		There's a long bookshelf above my bed.	on the corner of		My house is on the corner of West Street.

Other prepositions

+ transport	I go to school	by	bike/car/bus/train.
		on	foot. the underground.
+ superlatives	It's the hardest language	in + places	the world.
		on + planets	Earth.
+ movement	They're travelling She's coming	to + place of destination	Spain.
		from + place of origin	Switzerland.
+ phrases	I'm She's	on	holiday. an English course.