Time prepositions: in, at, on

Type of activity

Small group, board game

Grammar point

in, at and on

- we use in with months (in January), years (in 1999), seasons (in the spring), and parts of the day (in the morning/afternoon/evening)
- we use at with times (at 9.30), festivals (at Christmas), and in expressions like at night and at the weekend
- we use on with days and dates: on Monday, on Tuesday morning, on 17th April

Other structures

Present simple: affirmative, negative and questions Past simple: affirmative, negative and questions

Vocabulary

Times (e.g. at six o'clock), days (e.g. on Monday), months (e.g. in June), years (e.g. in 1999), festivals (e.g. at New Year)

38 Time prepositions: in, at, on

Rules

- 1 Your group will have a TIME BOARD, a dice, a set of PREPOSITION CARDS and one counter for each player.
- 2 Place your counters on START.
- 3 Deal out four PREPOSITION CARDS to each player.
- 4 Put the rest of the cards in a pile on the board, face down.
- 5 Player 1 throws the dice and moves forward that number of squares.
- 6 If you land on a 'time' square, look at the cards in your hand to see if you have a preposition that matches the time, e.g. AT Christmas or ON Monday.
- 7 Use the phrase to make a question to ask one of the other players, e.g. 'What do you eat at Christmas, François?'
- 8 When the other player replies, put your PREPOSITION CARD at the bottom of the pile and take another from the top.
- **9** If you can't make a question, you must take a card from the pile and miss a go.
- 10 Then it is the next player's turn.
- 11 The player who gets to FINISH first is the winner.

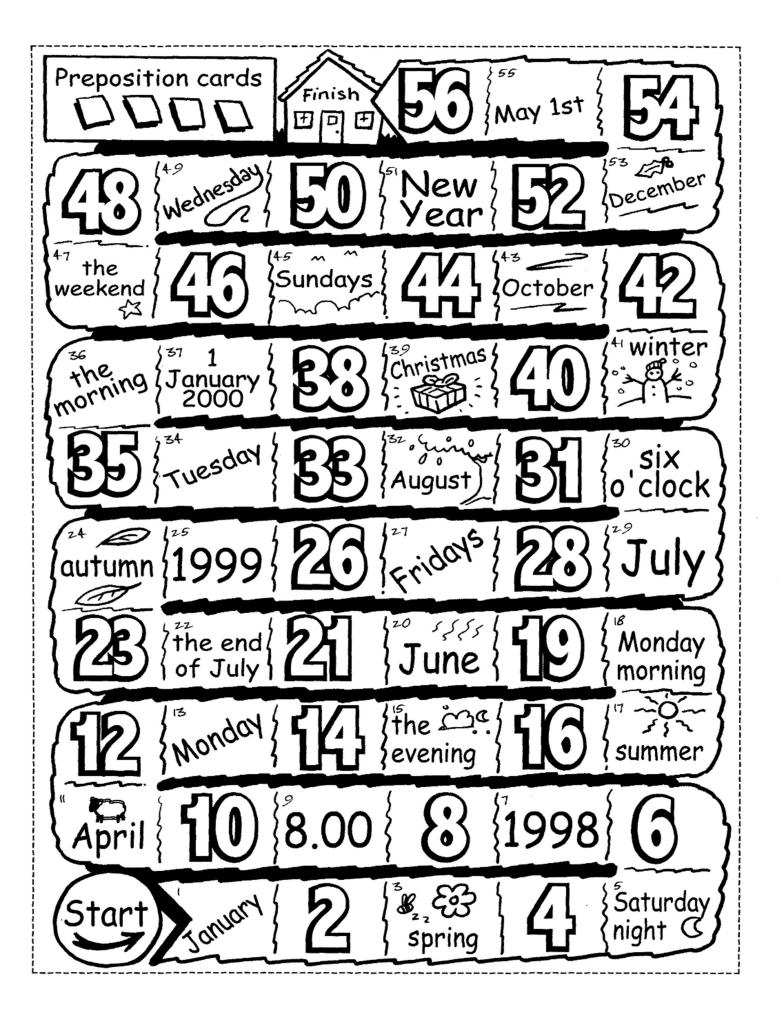
Materials and preparation

• Copy a TIME BOARD and a set of PREPOSITION CARDS for each group of 3–4 students in your class. Cut up the PREPOSITION CARDS. You will also need a dice for each group and a different coloured counter for each student in the group.

How to use the game

RULES SHEET

- Check that your students are familiar with the grammar in the Grammar point and Other structures and with the expressions listed under Vocabulary for this game.
- Divide the class into groups of 3-4.
- Give each group a TIME BOARD, a dice and a set of PREPOSITION CARDS, and a different coloured counter for each student in the group.
- The students should put the TIME BOARD in the middle of the table and place their counters on START.
- They should deal out four PREPOSITION CARDS to each player and put the rest face down in a pile on the corner of the board.
- Players take it in turns to throw the dice and move their counters round the board.
- If a player lands on a time square, she should look at the cards in her hand and find one that matches the time in the square (e.g. AT Christmas or ON Monday).
- The object of the game is to match times and prepositions correctly in order to ask a question.
- If she has a suitable PREPOSITION CARD she can ask a question to any other player, involving that time phrase, e.g. 'What do you eat at Christmas, François?' When François replies, she discards her PREPOSITION CARD, replacing it at the bottom of the pile, and takes another from the top. Then she can have another go.
- If a player does not have the correct PREPOSITION CARD in her hand she must miss her go, but can pick up a card from the pile.
- The player who gets to FINISH first is the winner.



PREPOSITION CARDS

iN	IN	IN
IN	IN	IN
AT	AT	AT
AT	AT	AT
ON	ON	ON
ON	ON	ON
ON	ON	ON