

38 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*)

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.

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.

Preposition cards



56

⁵⁵ May 1st

54

48

⁴⁹ Wednesday

50

⁵¹ New Year

52

⁵³ December

⁴⁷ the weekend

46

⁴⁵ Sundays

44

⁴³ October

42

³⁶ the morning

³⁷ 1 January 2000

38

³⁹ Christmas

40

⁴¹ winter

35

³⁴ Tuesday

33

³² August

31

³⁰ six o'clock

²⁴ autumn

²⁵ 1999

26

²⁷ Fridays

28

²⁹ July

23

²² the end of July

21

²⁰ June

19

¹⁸ Monday morning

12

¹³ Monday

14

¹⁵ the evening

16

¹⁷ summer

April

⁹ 10

8.00

⁷ 8

1998

6

Start

¹ January

2

³ ²² spring

4

⁵ Saturday night

PREPOSITION CARDS

IN

IN

IN

IN

IN

IN

IN

IN

IN

IN

IN

IN

IN

IN

IN

AT

AT

AT

AT

AT

AT

ON

ON

ON

ON

ON

ON

ON

ON

ON