

8 International trade

Prepositions of time

1 Complete the sentences with these prepositions.

after at by during for
from on until within

- 1 My flight gets in _____ 20:15, a few hours _____ yours.
- 2 I'll be away _____ Monday, 11 June, and I won't be back _____ Wednesday, 20 June.
- 3 My holidays begin _____ Monday, 11 June.
- 4 The meeting should have finished _____ 4.30pm at the latest.
- 5 I'll be away _____ about ten days _____ the month of June.
- 6 When I get back there are a few things I need to sort out, but you'll hear from me _____ a few days.

2 Cross out the *one* incorrect word in **bold** in each sentence.

- 1 I'm away from Monday **by** / **to** / **until** Wednesday.
- 2 What did you do **at** / **during** / **in** / **over** the holidays?
- 3 How long was his presentation? Oh, it lasted **during** / **for** about an hour.
- 4 **During** / **While** my time at university I learned a lot about economic theory.
- 5 **During** / **While** I was at university I learned a lot about economic theory.
- 6 **Last year** / **In the last year** sales were slightly better than this year.
- 7 **Last year** / **In the last year** sales have been improving; by the end of the year we predict growth of around 2%.

3 Cross out the *one* word or expression that is not used with the preposition at the beginning.

- 1 *in* April / 2006 / the 90s / lunch / the morning / the summer / the third quarter / the 21st century
- 2 *on* Friday / Friday morning / 2 April / Christmas Day / the summer / my birthday
- 3 *at* half past ten / the weekend / lunch / Christmas / the end of the week / the morning / night

4 Write at the beginning of each time expression either *in*, *on*, *at* or \emptyset if no preposition is used.

- 1 _____ this morning
- 2 _____ yesterday afternoon
- 3 _____ last night
- 4 _____ the day before yesterday
- 5 _____ a few days ago
- 6 _____ last week

5 Complete each sentence with *by* or *until*.

- 1 I need your report _____ Friday.
- 2 I'll be away _____ Friday lunchtime, but I'm free all Friday afternoon.
- 3 I waited _____ ten and then left.
- 4 _____ ten I had dealt with all my emails.

Now complete the explanation in the box by writing *by* or *until*.

_____ means 'up to'.
_____ means 'on' or 'before'.

6 Complete each sentence with *in time* or *on time*.

- 1 I got to the airport _____ – but another few minutes and I would have missed my flight.
- 2 I got to the airport _____, and had a chance to look at the stores.
- 3 If you order today, you'll get the goods _____ for Christmas.
- 4 You can trust us to deliver your goods _____ every time.

Now complete the explanation in the box by writing *in time* or *on time*.

_____ means 'with enough time' (usually: to do something else).
_____ means 'at the right time'.

7 Complete the explanation in the box by writing these phrases: *at the end*, *by the end*, *in the end*, *towards the end*, *at last*.

- _____ means 'eventually' or 'finally'.
The negotiation was going nowhere, and _____ we just walked away.
- _____ refers to the last part of something.
_____ of the negotiation their line manager will have to sign the contract.
- _____ means 'at' or 'before the end'.
_____ of the negotiation we had explored every possible option.
- _____ means 'near the end'.
_____ of the negotiation our legal team will have to start preparing the contract.
- _____ shows pleasure because something happens that you have been waiting for.
_____ the negotiations are finished! Let's all go out for a meal to celebrate.

8 Look at the alternatives in **bold** and write *S* (same meaning) or *D* (different meaning).

- 1 We appointed a sales agent in October, and **the following month/the month after that** we started to get our first orders.
- 2 We appointed a sales agent in October, and **soon after/shortly after** we started to get our first orders.