1. Adjectives are **invariable**:  
They do not change their form depending on the gender or number of the noun.  
--> A hot potato & Some hot potatoes   
  
2. To **emphasise** or strengthen the meaning of an adjective use '**very**' or **'really**':   
--> A very hot potato & Some really hot potatoes.   
  
3. **Position** of adjectives:   
a) Usually **in front of** a noun: --> A beautiful girl.  
b) **After** verbs like "to be", "to seem" , "to look", "to taste":   
--> The girl is beautiful.   
--> You look tired.   
--> This meat tastes funny.   
c) **After** the noun: in some fixed expressions: --> The Princess Royal --> The President elect   
  
the adjectives **involved, present, concerned**:   
--> I want to see the people **involved/concerned**(= the people who have something to do with the matter)  
--> Here is a list of the people **present**(= the people who were in the building or at the meeting)   
  
Be careful! When these adjectives are used before the noun they have a different meaning:   
--> An **involved**discussion = detailed, complex   
  
**FORM AND FUNCTION OF ADJECTIVES  
FUNCTION**  
  
Adjectives tell us more about a noun. They can: Describe **feelings or qualities**:  
--> He is a **lonely**man   
--> They are**honest**people  
  
Give **nationality or origin**:   
--> Pierre is**French**  
--> This clock is **German**  
  
Tell more about a thing's **characteristics**:  
--> A **wooden**table.  
--> The knife is **sharp**.   
--> He's a**young**man  
  
Tell us about **size and measurement**:  
--> John is a **tall**man.  
--> This is a very **long** film.   
  
Tell us about **colour**:  
--> Paul wore a **red**shirt.  
--> The sunset was**crimson**and gold.   
  
Tell us about **material/what something is made of**:  
--> It was a **wooden**table  
--> She wore a **cotton**dress.   
  
Tell us about **shape**:  
--> A**rectangular**box.  
--> A **square**envelope.  
  
Express a **judgement or a value**:  
--> A **fantastic**film  
--> Grammar is **boring**.   
  
**FORM AND FUNCTION OF ADJECTIVES  
ORDER:**  
Where a number of adjectives are used together, the order depends on the function of the adjective.  
The usual order is: Value/opinion, Size, Age/Temperature, Shape, Colour, Origin, Material 

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Value/opinion** | delicious, lovely, charming |
| **Size** | small, huge, tiny |
| **Age/Temperature** | old, hot, young |
| **Shape** | round, square, rectangular |
| **Colour** | red, blonde, black |
| **Origin** | Swedish, Victorian, Chinese |
| **Material** | plastic, wooden, silver |

Examples:   
--> a **lovely old red post-box**  
--> some **small round plastic tablesCOMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES**

AS + ADJECTIVE + AS   
To compare people, places, events or things, when there is no difference, use as + adjective + as:  
  
--> Peter is 24 years old. John is 24 years old. Peter is as old as John.  
--> Moscow is as cold as St. Petersburg in the winter.  
--> Ramona is as happy as Raphael.   
--> Einstein is as famous as Darwin.   
--> A tiger is as dangerous as a lion.   
  
NOT AS + ADJECTIVE + AS  
Difference can also be shown by using**not so/as ...as**:   
--> Mont Blanc is **not as high as**Mount Everest.  
--> Norway is **not as sunny as** Thailand   
--> A bicycle is **not as expensive as** a car.   
  
  
COMPARATIVE + THAN   
To compare the difference between two people, things or events.   
  
--> Mt. Everest is higher than Mt. Blanc.   
--> Thailand is sunnier than Norway.   
--> A car is more expensive than a bicycle.   
--> Albert is more intelligent than Arthur.   
  
COMPARISONS OF QUANTITY   
To show no difference: --> as much as , as many as, as few as, as little as   
as many as / as few as **countable** nouns; as much as / as little as + **uncountable** nouns   
  
With**countable nouns**:  
--> They have as many children as us.   
--> We have as many customers as them.  
--> Tom has as few books as Jane.   
  
With **uncountable** **nouns**:   
--> John eats as much food as Peter.   
--> Jim has as little food as Sam.  
--> You've heard as much news as I have.   
  
COMPARISONS OF QUANTITY   
To show difference : *more, less, fewer + than*   
To show no difference : *as much as , as many as, as few as, as little as*   
  
With **countable**nouns: more / fewer   
--> Eloise has more children than Chantal.   
--> Chantal has fewer children than Eloise.   
--> There are fewer dogs in Cardiff than in Bristol.   
  
With **uncountable**nouns: more / less   
--> Eloise has more money than Chantal.   
--> Chantal has less money than Eloise.   
--> I spend less time on homework than you do.   
  
So, the rule is:   
MORE + nouns that are **countable or uncountable**   
FEWER + **countable** nouns  
LESS + **uncountable** nouns   
 **IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES**These adjectives have completely irregular comparative and superlative forms:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Adjective** | **Comparative** | **Superlative** |
| good | *better* | *best* |
| bad | *worse* | *worst* |
| little | *less* | *least* |
| much | *more* | *most* |
| far | *further / farther* | *furthest / farthest* |

* We add ‘-er’ for the comparative and ‘-est’ for the superlative of one-syllable adjectives and adverbs.
* We use ‘-er’ and ‘-est’ with some two-syllable adjectives.
* We use ‘more’ for the comparative and ‘most’ for the superlative of most two-syllable adjectives, all longer adjectives, and adverbs ending in ‘-ly’.
* Some common adjectives and adverbs have irregular forms.
* **1**. We add ‘-er’ for the comparative form and ‘-est’ for the superlative form of one-syllable adjectives and adverbs. If they end in ‘-e’, you add ‘-r’ and ‘-st’.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | cheap safe | => | cheaper safer | => | cheapest safest | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | cold fast hard | light poor quick | rough small weak | young   ~ close | large nice wide | |

They worked harder. I've found a nicer hotel.

If they end in a single vowel and consonant (except ‘-w’), you double the consonant.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | big => bigger => biggest | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | fat hot sad thin wet | |

The day grew hotter. Henry was the biggest of them.

**2**. With two-syllable adjectives ending in a consonant followed by ‘-y’, you change the ‘-y’ to ‘-i’ and add ‘-er’ and ‘-est’.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | happy => happier => happiest | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | angry busy | dirty easy | friendly funny | heavy lucky | silly tiny | |

It couldn't be easier.

That is the funniest bit of the film.**3**. We use ‘more’ for the comparative and ‘most’ for the superlative of most two-syllable adjectives, all longer adjectives, and adverbs ending in ‘-ly’.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | careful more careful most careful | => | beautiful more beautiful most beautiful | => | seriously more seriously most seriously | |

Be more careful next time.

They are the most beautiful gardens in the world.

It affected Clive most seriously.

Note that for ‘early’ as an adjective or adverb, you use ‘earlier’ and ‘earliest’, not ‘more’ and ‘most’.

**4**. With some common two-syllable adjectives and adverbs, we can either add ‘-er’ and ‘-est’, or use ‘more’ and ‘most’.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | common cruel | gentle handsome | likely narrow | pleasan polite | simple stupid | |

Note that ‘clever’ and ‘quiet’ only add ‘-er’ and ‘-est’.

It was quieter outside.He was the cleverest man I ever met.

**5**. We normally use ‘the’ with superlative adjectives in front of nouns, but you can omit ‘the’ after a link verb.

It was the happiest day of my life.It was one of the most important discoveries.

I was happiest when I was on my own.

**WARNING**: When ‘most’ is used without ‘the’ in front of adjectives and adverbs, it often means almost the same as ‘very’.

This book was most interesting.I object most strongly.

**6**. A few common adjectives and adverbs have irregular comparative and superlative forms.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | good/well bad/badly far old | => | better worse farther/further older/elder | => | best worst farthest/furthest oldest/eldest | |

She would ask him when she knew him better.She sat near the furthest window.

Note that you use ‘elder’ or ‘eldest’ to say which brother, sister, or child in a family you mean.

Our eldest daughter couldn't come.

**MORE ON THE COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES**

* Comparative adjectives are used to compare people or things.
* Superlative adjectives are used to say that one person or thing has more of a quality than others in a group or others of that kind.
* Comparative adverbs are used in the same way as adjectives.

**1**. We use comparative adjectives to compare one person or thing with another, or with the same person or thing at another time. After a comparative adjective, we often use ‘than’.

Bill was much older than Ted.Mary is happier than she has ever been.

**2**. We use a superlative to say that one person or thing has more of a quality than others in a group or others of that kind.

Istanbul is Türkiye's largest city.He was the tallest person there.

**3**. We can use comparative and superlative adjectives in front of a noun.

I was a better writer than he was.

He had more important things to do.

It was the quickest route from Rome to Naples.

You can also use comparative and superlative adjectives after link verbs.

My brother is younger than me.He feels more content now.

The sergeant was the tallest.This book was the most interesting.

**4**. We can use adverbs of degree in front of comparative adjectives.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | a bit far | a great/good deal a little | a lot much | rather slightly | |

This car's a bit more expensive.Now I feel a great deal more confident.

It's a rather more complicated story than that.

You can also use adverbs of degree such as ‘by far’, ‘easily’, ‘much’, or ‘quite’ in front of ‘the’ and superlative adjectives.

It was by far the worst hospital I had ever seen.She was easily the most intelligent person in the class.

Note that you can put ‘very’ between ‘the’ and a superlative adjective ending in ‘-est’.

It was of the very highest quality.

**5**. When we want to say that one situation depends on another, we can use ‘the’ and a comparative followed by ‘the’ and another comparative.

The smaller it is, the cheaper it is to post.

The larger the organisation is, the greater the problem of administration becomes.

When we want to say that something increases or decreases, we can use two comparatives linked by ‘and’.

It's getting harder and harder to find a job.Cars are becoming more and more expensive.

**6**. We can use comparative and superlative adjectives in front of a noun.

After a superlative adjective, you can use a prepositional phrase to specify the group you are talking about.

Henry was the biggest of them.

These cakes are probably the best in the world.

He was the most dangerous man in the country.

**7**. We use the same structures in comparisons using adverbs as those given for adjectives:

* ‘than’ after comparative adverbs Prices have been rising faster than incomes.
* ‘the’ and a comparative adverb followed by ‘the’ and another comparative adverb

The quicker we finish, the sooner we will go home.

* two comparative adverbs linked by ‘and’ He sounded worse and worse.

He drove faster and faster till we told him to stop.

**FORM AND FUNCTION OF ADVERBS**

 Adverbials are usually adverbs, adverb phrases, or prepositional phrases.

 Adverbials of manner, place, and time are used to say how, where, or when something happens.

 Adverbials usually come after the verb, or after the object if there is one.

 The usual order of adverbials is manner, then place, then time.

**1**. An adverbial is often one word, an adverb. Sit there quietly, and listen to this music.However, an adverbial can also be a group of words:

* an adverb phrase He did not play well enough to win.
* a prepositional phrase

The children were playing in the park.

* a noun group, usually a time expression

Come and see me next week.

**2**. We use an adverbial of manner to describe the way in which something happens or is done.

They looked anxiously at each other. She listened with great patience as he told his story.

You use an adverbial of place to say where something happens.

A plane flew overhead.No birds or animals came near the body.

You use an adverbial of time to say when something happens.

She will be here soon. He was born on 3 April 1925.

**3**. We normally put adverbials of manner, place, and time after the main verb.

She sang beautifully.The book was lying on the table.

The car broke down yesterday.

If the verb has an object, you put the adverbial after the object.

I did learn to play a few tunes very badly.Thomas made his decision immediately.

He took the glasses to the kitchen.

If you are using more than one of these adverbials in a clause, the usual order is manner, then place, then time.

They were sitting quite happily in the car. (manner, place)

She spoke very well at the village hall last night. (manner, place, time)

**4**. We usually put adverbials of frequency, probability, and duration in front of the main verb.

She occasionally comes to my house.You have very probably heard the news by now.

They had already given me the money.

A few adverbs of degree also usually come in front of the main verb.

She really enjoyed the party

**5**. When we want to focus on an adverbial, we can do this by putting it in a different place in the clause:

* we can put an adverbial at the beginning of a clause, usually for emphasis

Slowly, he opened his eyes.In September I travelled to California.

Next to the coffee machine stood a pile of cups.

Note that after adverbials of place, as in the last example, the verb can come in front of the subject.

* we can sometimes put adverbs and adverb phrases in front of the main verb for emphasis, but not prepositional phrases or noun groups

He deliberately chose it because it was cheap.

I very much wanted to go with them.

* we can change the order of adverbials of manner, place, and time when you want to change the emphasis

They were sitting in the car quite happily. (place, manner)

At the meeting last night, she spoke very well. (place, time, manner)

**ADVERBS OF DEGREE**

 Adverbs of degree usually modify verbs.

 Some adverbs of degree can modify adjectives, other adverbs, or clauses.

**1**. We use adverbs of degree to modify verbs. They make the verb stronger or weaker.

*I totally disagree.* *I can nearly swim.*

**2**. Some adverbs can come in front of a main verb, after a main verb, or after the object if there is one.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | badly completely | greatly seriously | strongly totally | |

*Mr Brooke strongly criticized the Bank of England.*

*I disagree completely with John Taylor.* *That argument doesn't convince me totally*.

Some adverbs are mostly used in front of the verb.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | almost largely nearly really quite | |

*He almost crashed into a lorry.*

Note that ‘really’ is used at the beginning of a clause to express surprise, and at the end of a clause as an adverb of manner.

*Really, I didn't know that!* *He wanted it really, but he was too shy to ask.*

‘A lot’ and ‘very much’ come after the main verb if there is no object, or after the object.

*She helped a lot.* *We liked him very much.*

‘Very much’ can come after the subject and in front of verbs like ‘want’, ‘prefer’, and ‘enjoy’.

*I very much wanted to take it with me.*

**3**. Some adverbs of degree go in front of adjectives or other adverbs and modify them.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | awfully extremely | fairly pretty | quite rather | really very | |

*...a fairly large office, with filing space.*

Note that we can use ‘rather’ before or after ‘a’ or ‘an’ followed by an adjective and a noun.

*Seaford is rather a pleasant town.* *He told me a rather long and complicated story.*

When ‘quite’ means ‘fairly’, you put it in front of ‘a’ or ‘an’ followed by an adjective and a noun.

*My father gave me quite a large sum of money.*

However, when ‘quite’ means ‘extremely’, you can put it after ‘a’. You can say ‘a quite enormous sum’.

**4**. We use some adverbs of degree to modify clauses and prepositional phrases.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | entirely just largely mainly partly simply | |

*Are you saying that simply because I am here?* *I don't think it's worth going just for a day.*

**5**. We use ‘so’ and ‘such’ to emphasize a quality that someone or something has. ‘So’ can be followed by an adjective, an adverb, or a noun group beginning with ‘many’, ‘much’, ‘few’, or ‘little’.

*John is so interesting to talk to.* *Science is changing so rapidly.*

*I want to do so many different things.*

‘Such’ is followed by a singular noun group with ‘a’, or a plural noun group.

*There was such a noise we couldn't hear.* *They said such nasty things about you.*

**WARNING:** ‘So’ is never followed by a singular noun group with ‘a’ or a plural noun group.

**6**. We use ‘too’ when you mean ‘more than is necessary’ or ‘more than is good’. We can use ‘too’ before adjectives and adverbs, and before ‘many’, ‘much’, ‘few’, or ‘little’.

*The prices in that shop are too high.* *I've been paying too much tax.*

We use ‘enough’ after adjectives and adverbs.

*I waited until my daughter was old enough to read.* *He didn't work quickly enough.*

Note that ‘enough’ is also a determiner.

*We've got enough money to buy that car now.*

**7**. We use emphasizing adverbs to modify adjectives such as ‘astonishing’, ‘furious’, and ‘wonderful’, which express extreme qualities.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | absolutely completely | entirely perfectly | purely quite | really simply | totally utterly | |

*I think he's absolutely wonderful.* **ADVERBS OF DURATION**

 ‘Already’ is used to say that something has happened earlier than expected.

 ‘Still’ is used to say that something continues to happen until a particular time.

 ‘Yet’ is used to say that something has not happened before a particular time.

 ‘Any longer’, ‘any more’, ‘no longer’, and ‘no more’ are used to say that something has stopped happening.

**1**. We use adverbials of duration to say that an event or situation is continuing, stopping, or is not happening at the moment.

*She still lives in London.I couldn't stand it any more.It isn't dark yet.*

**2**. We use ‘already’ to say that something has happened sooner than it was expected to happen. We put ‘already’ in front of the main verb.

*He had already bought the cups and saucers.*

*I've already seen them.The guests were already conning in.*

We put ‘already’ after ‘be’ as a main verb.

*Julie was already in bed.*

We can also use ‘already’ to emphasize that something is the case, for example when someone else does not know or is not sure.

*I am already aware of that problem.*

We do not normally use ‘already’ in negative statements, but we can use it in negative ‘if’-clauses.

*Show it to him if he hasn't already seen it.*

We can put ‘already’ at the beginning or end of a clause for emphasis.

*Already he was calculating the profit he could make.* *I've done it already.*

**3**. We use ‘still’ to say that a situation continues to exist up to a particular time in the past, present, or future. You put ‘still’ in front of the main verb.

*We were still waiting for the election results.* *My family still live in India.*

*You will still get tickets, if you hurry.*

You put ‘still’ after ‘be’ as a main verb.

*Martin's mother died, but his father is still alive.*

We can use ‘still’ after the subject and before the verb group in negative sentences to express surprise or impatience.

*You still haven't given us the keys.He still didn't say a word.*

*It was after midnight, and he still wouldn't leave.*

Remember that we can use ‘still’ at the beginning of a clause with a similar meaning to ‘after all’ or ‘nevertheless’.

*Still, he is my brother, so I'll have to help him.*

*Still, it's not too bad. We didn't lose all the money.*

**4**. We use ‘yet’ at the end of negative sentences and questions to say that something has not happened or had not happened up to a particular time, but is or was expected to happen later.

*We haven't got the tickets yet.Have you joined the swimming club yet?*

*They hadn't seen the baby yet.*

Remember that ‘yet’ can also be used at the beginning of a clause with a similar meaning to ‘but’.

*I don't miss her, yet I do often wonder where she went.They know they won't win. Yet they keep on trying.*

**5**. We use ‘any longer’ and ‘any more’ at the end of negative clauses to say that a past situation has ended and does not exist now or will not exist in the future.*I wanted the job, but I couldn't wait any longer.*

*He's not going to play any more.*In formal English, we can use an affirmative clause with ‘no longer’ and ‘no more’. We can put them at the end of the clause, or in front of the main verb.

**ADVERBS OF MANNER**

 Most adverbs of manner are formed by adding ‘-ly’ to an adjective, but sometimes other spelling     changes are needed. We cannot form adverbs from adjectives that end in ‘-ly’. Some adverbs have the same form as adjectives. We do not use adverbs after link verbs, you use adjectives. Adverbials of manner are sometimes prepositional phrases or noun groups.**1**. Adverbs of manner are often formed by adding ‘-ly’to an adjective.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Adjectives** bad beautiful careful quick quiet soft | => | **Adverbs** badly beautifully carefully quickly quietly softly | |

**2**. Adverbs formed in this way usually have a similar meaning to the adjective.

*She is as clever as she is beautiful.He talked so politely and danced so beautifully.*

*‘We must not talk. We must be quiet,’ said Sita.*

*She wanted to sit quietly, to relax.*

**3**. There are sometimes changes in spelling when an adverb is formed from an adjective.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **‘-le’ changes to ‘-ly’:** **‘-y’ changes to ‘-ily’:** **‘-ic’ changes to ‘-ically’:** **‘-ue’ changes to ‘-uly’:** **‘-ll’ changes to ‘-lly’:** | **Adjectives** gentle easy automatic true full | **Adverbs** gently easily automatically truly fully | |

Note that ‘public’ changes to ‘publicly’, not ‘publically’.

**WARNING:** We cannot form adverbs from adjectives that already end in ‘-ly’. For example, you cannot say ‘He smiled at me friendlily’. We can sometimes use a prepositional phrase instead: ‘He smiled at me in a friendly way’.

**4**. Some adverbs of manner have the same form as adjectives and have similar meanings, for example ‘fast’, ‘hard’, and ‘late’.

*I've always been interested in fast cars.* (adjective) *The driver was driving too fast.* (adverb)

Note that ‘hardly’ and ‘lately’ are not adverbs of manner and have different meanings from the adjectives ‘hard’ and ‘late’.

*It was a hard decision to make.* *I hardly had any time to talk to her.*

*The train was late as usual*. *Have you seen John lately*?

**5**. The adverb of manner related to the adjective ‘good’ is ‘well’.

*He is a good dancer*. *He dances well.*

Note that ‘well’ can sometimes be an adjective when it refers to someone's health.

*‘How are you?’- ‘I am very well, thank you.’*

**6**. We do not use adverbs after I i nk verbs such as ‘be’, ‘become’, ‘feel’, ‘get’, ‘look’, and ‘seem’. You use an adjective after these verbs.   
  
For example, you do not say ‘Sue felt happily’. You say ‘Sue felt happy’.

**7**. We do not often use prepositional phrases or noun groups as adverbials of manner. However, we occasionally need to use them, for example when there is no adverb form available. The prepositional phrases and noun groups usually include a noun such as ‘way’, ‘fashion’, or ‘manner’, or a noun that refers to someone's voice.

*She asked me in such a nice manner that I couldn't refuse.*.

*He did it the right way.*. *They spoke in angry tones.*

Prepositional phrases with ‘like’ are also used as adverbials of manner.*I slept like a baby.*. *He drove like a madman.* **ADVERBS OF TIME**

 Adverbials of time can be time expressions such as ‘last night’.

 Adverbials of time can be prepositional phrases with ‘at’, ‘in’, or ‘on’.

 ‘For’ refers to a period of time in the past, present, or future.

 ‘Since’ refers to a point in past time.

**1**. We use adverbials of time to say when something happens. We often use noun groups called time expressions as adverbials of time.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | yesterday today tomorrow | last year next Saturday next week | the day after tomorrow last night the other day | |

Note that we do not use the prepositions ‘at’, ‘in’, or ‘on’ with time expressions.

*One of my children wrote to me today.*.*So, you're coming back next week?*

We often use time expressions with verbs in the present tense to talk about the future.

*The plane leaves tomorrow morning.They're coming next week*.

**2**. We can use prepositional phrases as adverbials of time:

* ‘at’ is used with:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **clock times:** at eight o'clock, at three fifteen **religious festivals:** at Christmas, at Easter **mealtimes:** at breakfast, at lunchtimes **specific periods:** at night, at the weekend, at weekends, at half-term | |

* ‘in’ is used with:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **seasons:** in autumn, in the spring **years and centuries:** in 1985, in the year 2000, in the nineteenth century **months:** in July, in December **parts of the day:** in the morning, in the evenings | |

* Note that we also use ‘in’ to say that something will happen during or after a period of time in the future.
* *I think we'll find out in the next few days.*
* ‘on’ is used with:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **days:** on Monday, on Tuesday morning, on Sunday evenings **special days:** on Christmas Day, on my birthday, on his wedding anniversary **dates:** on the twentieth of July, on June 21st | |

**3**. We use ‘for’ with verbs in any tense to say how long something continues to happen.

*He is in Italy for a month.*.*I remained silent for a long time.I will be in London for three months.*

**WARNING:** We do not use ‘during’ to say how long something continues to happen. We cannot say ‘I went there during three weeks’.

**4**. We use ‘since’ with a verb in the present perfect or past perfect tense to say when something started to happen.

*Marilyn has lived in Paris since 1984.*.*I had eaten nothing since breakfast.*.

**5**. We can use many other prepositional phrases as adverbials of time. We use:

* ‘during’ and ‘over’ for a period of time in which something happens

*I saw him twice during the summer holidays.Will you stay in Edinburgh over Christmas?*

* ‘from...to/till/until’ and ‘between...and’ for the beginning and end of a period of time

*The building is closed from April to May*.*She worked from four o'clock till ten o'clock.*

*Can you take the test between now and June?*

* ‘by’ when you mean ‘not later than’

*By eleven o'clock, Brody was back in his office*.*Can we get this finished by tomorrow?*

* ‘before’ and ‘after’

*I saw him before the match.She left the house after ten o'clock.*

‘Since’, ‘till’, ‘until’, ‘after’, and ‘before’ can also be conjunctions with time clauses.

*I've been wearing glasses since I was three.*

You use the adverb ‘ago’ with the past simple to say how long before the time of speaking something happened. You always put ‘ago’ after the period of time.

*We saw him about a month ago.John's wife died five years ago.*

**WARNING:** We do not use ‘ago’ with the present perfect tense. We cannot say ‘We have gone to Spain two years ago’.