

## On time / in time, at the end / in the end

### A

#### On time / in time

**On time** = punctual, not late. If something happens **on time**, it happens at the time that was planned:

- The 11:45 train left **on time**. (= it left at 11:45)
- "I'll meet you at 7:30." "OK, but please be **on time**." (= don't be late, be there at 7:30)
- The conference was very well organized. Everything began and finished **on time**.

The opposite of **on time** is **late**:

- Be **on time**. Don't be late.

**In time** (for something / to do something) = soon enough:

- Will you be home **in time** for dinner? (= soon enough for dinner)
- I've sent Jill her birthday present. I hope it arrives **in time** (for her birthday). (= soon enough for her birthday)
- I'd better hurry. I want to get home **in time** to see the baseball game on TV. (= soon enough to see the baseball game)

The opposite of **in time** is **too late**:

- I got home **too late** to see the baseball game.

You can say **just in time** (= almost too late):

- We got to the station **just in time** to catch the train.

### B

#### At the end and in the end

**At the end of** (something) = at the time when something ends. For example:

at the end of the month    at the end of January    at the end of the game  
at the end of the movie    at the end of the course    at the end of the concert

- I'm going away at the end of January / at the end of the month.
- At the end of the concert, there was great applause.
- All the players shook hands at the end of the game.

You cannot say "in the end of something." So you cannot say "in the end of January" or "in the end of the concert."

The opposite of **at the end of** is **at the beginning of**:

at the beginning of January    at the beginning of the concert

**In the end** = finally

We use **in the end** when we say what the final result of a situation was:

- We had a lot of problems with our car. **In the end** we sold it and bought another one. (= finally we sold it)
- He got angrier and angrier. **In the end** he just walked out of the room.
- Jim couldn't decide where to go on vacation. He didn't go anywhere **in the end**.

The opposite of **in the end** is usually **at first**:

- **At first** we didn't like each other very much, but **in the end** we became good friends.

# Exercises

## 118.1 Complete the sentences with *on time* or *in time*.

1. The bus was late this morning, but it's usually on time.
2. The movie was supposed to start at 8:30, but it didn't begin \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I like to get up \_\_\_\_\_ to have a big breakfast before going to work.
4. We want to start the meeting \_\_\_\_\_, so please don't be late.
5. I've just washed this shirt. I want to wear it this evening, so I hope it will dry \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The train service isn't very good. The trains are rarely \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I almost missed my flight this morning. I got to the airport just \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I almost forgot that it was Joe's birthday. Fortunately, I remembered \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Why aren't you ever \_\_\_\_\_? You always keep everybody waiting.

## 118.2 Complete the sentences using *at the end of* + one of the following:

the course    ~~the game~~    the interview    the month    the race

1. All the players shook hands at the end of the game.
2. I usually get paid \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The students had a party \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Two of the runners collapsed \_\_\_\_\_.
5. To my surprise, I was offered the job \_\_\_\_\_.

## 118.3 Write sentences with *In the end* ... Use the verb in parentheses.

1. We had a lot of problems with our car.  
(sell) In the end we sold it.
2. Judy got more and more fed up with her job.  
(resign) \_\_\_\_\_
3. I tried to learn Korean, but it was too hard for me.  
(give up) \_\_\_\_\_
4. We couldn't decide whether to go to the party or not.  
(not / go) \_\_\_\_\_

## 118.4 Put in *at* or *in*.

1. I'm going away at the end of the month.
2. It took me a long time to find a job. \_\_\_\_\_ the end I got a job in a hotel.
3. Are you going away \_\_\_\_\_ the beginning of August or \_\_\_\_\_ the end?
4. I couldn't decide what to buy Mary for her birthday. I didn't buy her anything \_\_\_\_\_ the end.
5. We waited ages for a taxi. We gave up \_\_\_\_\_ the end and walked home.
6. I'll be moving to a new address \_\_\_\_\_ the end of September.
7. At first Sarah didn't want to go to the theater, but she came with us \_\_\_\_\_ the end.
8. I'm going away \_\_\_\_\_ the end of this week.
9. "I didn't know what to do." "Yes, you were in a difficult position. What did you do \_\_\_\_\_ the end?"