

Time Expressions: Past

in, on, at, ago, for, since. 4 exercises + answer key

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

in + year/month/season/decade. on + day/date. at + time/event. No preposition with: yesterday, last, ago.

1 Exercise 1 EASY Choose the correct time expression.

Word bank: last / a few / in / yesterday / on / last / ago / in / at / at

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|--|--|
| 1. I went to Paris ____ year. (last / ago / in) | 2. She called me ____ minutes ago. (last / few / a few) |
| 3. He was born ____ 1995. (at / on / in) | 4. They left _____. (yesterday / last yesterday / the yesterday) |
| 5. I saw her ____ Monday. (in / at / on) | 6. We went camping ____ summer. (on / last / in the) |
| 7. He moved here three years _____. (before / ago / since) | 8. She finished school ____ June. (on / in / at) |
| 9. I met him ____ a conference in 2019. (in / at / on) | 10. They got married ____ the weekend. (in / on / at) |

2 Exercise 2 MEDIUM Write the correct preposition: in, on, or at.

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. She was born ____ 14 March 1990. | 2. He started the job ____ 2018. |
| 3. They met ____ university. | 4. I got home ____ midnight. |
| 5. He called me ____ Tuesday morning. | 6. She graduated ____ the summer of 2020. |
| 7. They lived there ____ the 1980s. | 8. I saw the accident ____ the corner. |
| 9. She arrived ____ Christmas Eve. | 10. He called ____ the evening. |

3 Exercise 3 HARD Choose the correct time expression.

Word bank: since / for / ago / in / no preposition / in / on / for / in / in

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|---|--|
| 1. I haven't seen her ____ we were at school. (ago / since / for) | 2. She lived in London ____ three years. (since / ago / for) |
| 3. He left ____ an hour. (ago / for / since) | 4. They moved here ____ 2015. (ago / for / in) |
| 5. I saw the film ____ last night. (in / on / no preposition) | 6. She called him ____ the afternoon. (on / in / at) |
| 7. They got married ____ Christmas Day. (in / at / on) | 8. I studied French ____ five years at school. (since / ago / for) |
| 9. He was very popular ____ the 1990s. (on / at / in) | 10. She fell asleep ____ the middle of the film. (on / at / in) |

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Exercise 4

HARDER

Write: yesterday, last, ago, in, on, at, for, or since.

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| <p>1. I saw him two weeks ____.</p> <hr/> <p>3. She worked there ____ ten years before retiring.</p> <hr/> <p>5. They've been friends ____ they were children.</p> <hr/> <p>7. I used to live there ____ the early 2000s.</p> <hr/> <p>9. She got the job ____ Monday and started on Wednesday.</p> <hr/> | <p>2. ____ morning I had a really important meeting.</p> <hr/> <p>4. He left ____ night and I haven't heard from him since.</p> <hr/> <p>6. She was born ____ a cold winter night in 1988.</p> <hr/> <p>8. He arrived exactly ____ midnight.</p> <hr/> <p>10. They moved to the new office ____ January.</p> <hr/> |
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Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 Easy: choose the time expression

1 last

2 a few

3 in

4 yesterday

5 on

6 last

7 ago

8 in

9 at

10 at

2 Exercise 2 Medium: write in, on, or at

1 on

2 in

3 at

4 at

5 on

6 in

7 in

8 at

9 on

10 in

3 Exercise 3 Hard: choose the expression

1 since

2 for

3 ago

4 in

5 no preposition

6 in

7 on

8 for

9 in

10 in

4 Exercise 4 Harder: write the expression

1 ago

2 Yesterday

3 for

4 last

5 since

6 on

7 in

8 at

9 on

10 in