

Time expressions with Present Simple speaking games and grammar presentation

Game A: Time expressions with Present Simple make me say yes game

Choose one of the cards and ask a yes/ no question with it such as “Do you feel sleepy on Mondays?” You score one point if your partner says “Yes”.

Game B: Time expressions with Present Simple things in common game

Deal out the cards. Try to make a true statement about you using a word or words from your cards that is also true for someone else in your group. For example, if you have the “always” card and say “I always eat sandwiches for lunch” and someone says “Me too!”, you can put that card down in front of you and score one point. If you can combine two cards in one sentence that other people agree with like “I almost always brush my teeth in the morning”, you get two points. If they have the opposite reaction (“Really? I never do” or “Not me, I do three times a day”), you don’t score a point and play passes to the next person, but you can try again with the same card later. The person with fewest cards left in their hand at the end of the game wins.

Time expressions with Present Simple grammar presentation

After you finish the game, put all the cards back together and divide them into ones which are answers to “How often...?” and ones which are answers to “When...?”

Divide the “How often...?” cards into two groups and put each group into order by meaning, with the most often top. Then divide the “When...?” cards into ones that take the preposition “on...”, ones which take the preposition “in...”, and ones which take the preposition “at...”

Check all those things as a class or with an un-cut-up copy of the worksheet, then make rules about what kinds of words go with each of the prepositions.

Which preposition goes with each of these times?

dates days months parts of the day seasons times

What do the different things that go with the same preposition have in common?

Why do days and dates have the same preposition? And why are seasons and months the same? Why do those two groups take different prepositions? How are they different from each other?

Game C: Time expressions with Present Simple answer me game

Choose one of the cards and try to get an answer from your partner including that word or those words, e.g. asking “How often do you ride an elephant?” to get the answer “Never”.

Game D: General statements with time expressions and Present Simple

Try to make statements starting with “Most people in my country...” and both a frequency expression and another time expression that your partner agrees with such as “Most people in my country usually take a bath in the evening”.

| Answers to “How often...?” | Answers to “When...?” |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| adverbs of frequency | in... |
| always/ all the time | the morning |
| almost always | the evening |
| usually/ generally | (the) spring |
| often | (the) summer |
| sometimes | (the) autumn (= fall) |
| occasionally | February |
| rarely/ seldom | July |
| very rarely/ hardly ever | August |
| almost never | on... |
| never | Valentine’s Day |
| other frequency expressions | New Year’s Eve |
| twice a day | Friday(s) |
| three times a week | Saturday(s) |
| twice a week | Sunday(s) |
| once a week | Monday morning(s) |
| three times a month | Sunday afternoon(s) |
| once every two weeks | Christmas Day |
| once a month | at... |
| once every three months | midday |
| three times a year | seven o’clock |
| once every two or three years | six thirty |