

Time expressions with Present Simple speaking games and grammar presentation

Part One: Finding things in common time expressions with Present Simple game

Choose cards from the pack that you are given and try to make true statements about yourself that are true for at least one other person in your group. For example, if you say “I always eat sandwiches for lunch” and someone says “Me too!”, you can take the “always” card and score one point. If you can combine two cards with sentences that other people agree with like “I almost always brush my teeth in the morning”, you can get two points. If they have the opposite reaction (e.g. “Really? I never do” or “Not me, I do three times a day”), you have to put the card back and play passes to the next person. The person who has the most cards at the end of the game wins.

Part Two: 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 how often they mean.

Divide the “When...?” cards by the prepositions that they take – “on” or “in”.

Check all those things with the next page.

What kinds of words go with each of those prepositions?

Which preposition goes with each of these?

seasons

months

dates

days

parts of the day

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

Why do days and dates have the same preposition?

Why do seasons and months have the same preposition?

Why do those two groups take different prepositions? How are they different from each other?

Part Three: 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”.

Hints for grammar presentation: There is the same number of each card.

Cards to cut up/ Suggested answers

Cut off the small cards with bold text in them before cutting up and giving out the cards.

Answers to “How often...?”	Answers to “When...?”
	In...
Always	the morning
Almost always	the evening on Sunday
Usually/ Generally	(the) spring
Often	(the) summer
Sometimes	(the) autumn (= fall)
Rarely/ Seldom	January
Very rarely	February
Almost never	July
Never	August
Three times a day	December
	On...
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	The first of May
Once a month	Valentine’s Day
Once every three months	Xmas Eve
Three times a year	Xmas Day
Once every two or three years	New Year’s Eve