



# PREPOSITIONS UNPACKED

Time, Place & Everything in Between

Fiona Craddock – 27<sup>th</sup> March



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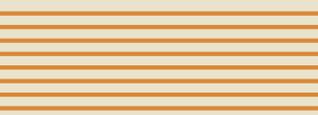
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## The logic of phrasal verbs

There is some. I  
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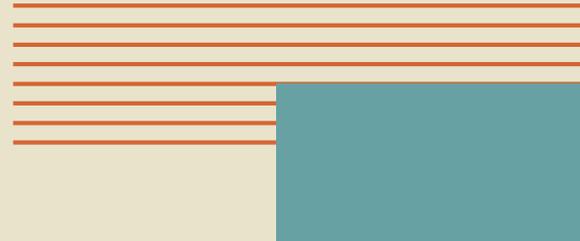




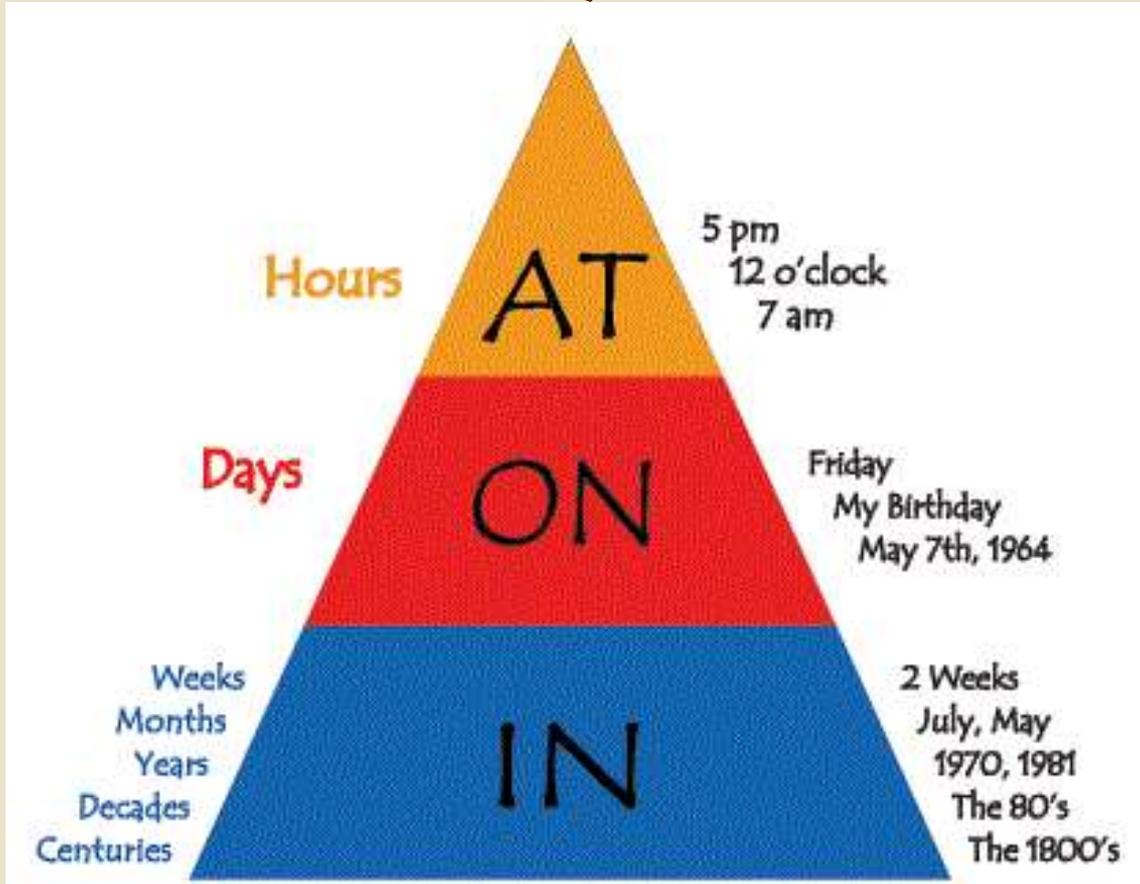
# Prepositions of Time

## IN, ON, AT

01



# Time Pyramid



# At New Year, At Christmas, At Easter

## Not specific days

- We're going to go away AT New Year
- Cadbury's Creme eggs are only available AT Easter
- We'll see them AT Christmas

# Time - Exceptions

- In the morning
- In the afternoon
- In the evening
- At night
  
- At the weekend / On the weekend ↓

# Side note: ON HOLIDAY



**Holy day** (un día sagrado)



**on holidays** (3 semanas  
“sagradas”)

# Side note: on time vs in time



**on time = punctual**

**in time = before it's too late**

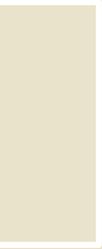
# QUIZ!

**Q1** When is Spain's National Day?

On 12th October

In October

In autumn / In the fall



# QUIZ!

**02** What time did this seminar begin?

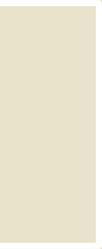
At 4.30



# QUIZ!

**03** When do English people kiss under mistletoe?

At Christmas  
In December



# QUIZ!

**04** When did Spain win Eurovision?

In 1968 and 1969

In the 60s

In the 20th Century



# QUIZ!

**05** When do Australian's celebrate Christmas?

On December 25th

In the summer

In December



# QUIZ!

## 06 When was Isabella Catolica born?

In the middle ages / In the medieval period

In the 15<sup>th</sup> Century / In the late 15<sup>th</sup> Century

In a turbulent era

In 1451

In the spring of 1451

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>

# QUIZ!

**07** What day of the week do Spanairds traditionally eat paella?

On Thursdays

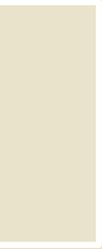


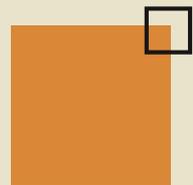
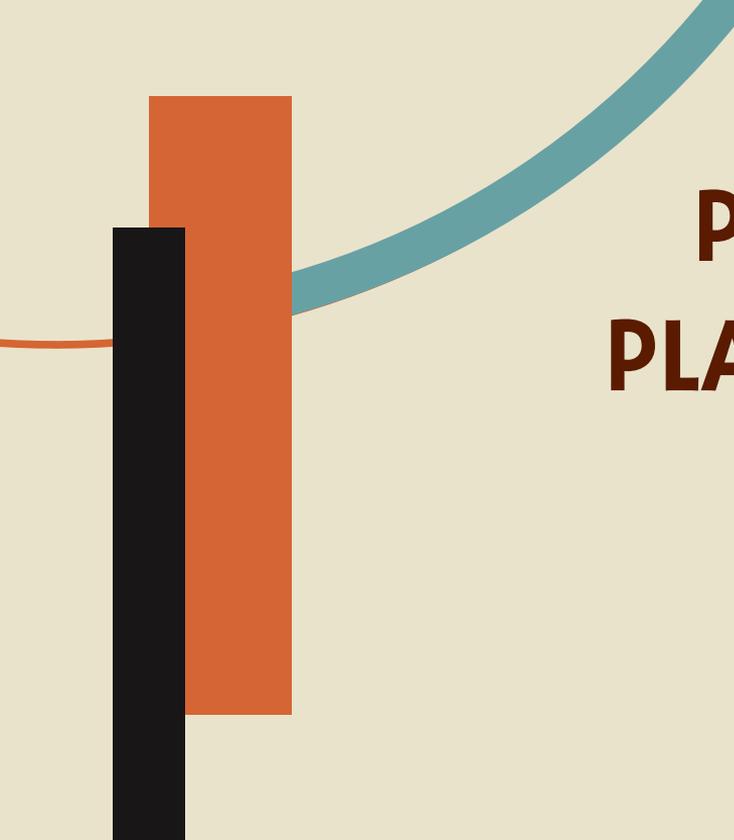
# QUIZ!

**08** Did today's seminar start **in** time or **on** time?

On time

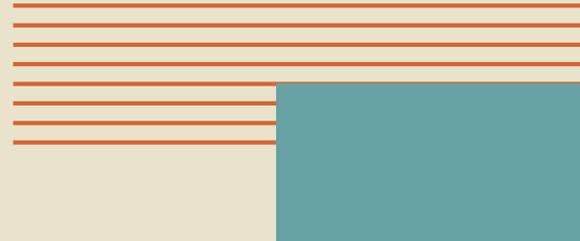
(we're very punctual)





# Prepositions of PLACE – IN, ON, AT

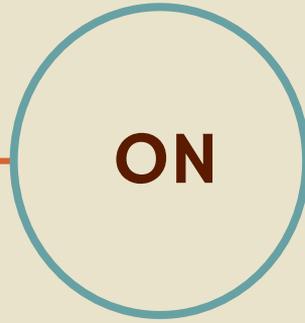
# 02





**IN**

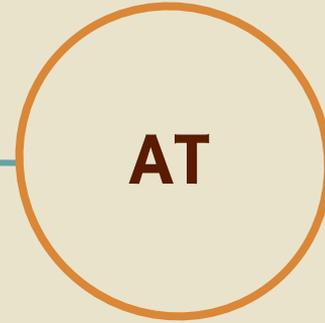
We use *in* to talk about a place that is inside a bigger space, such as a box, a house, a city or a country.



**ON**

We use *on* to talk about location on a surface.

We also use *on* for lines (including rivers, borders, streets, etc.) and islands.



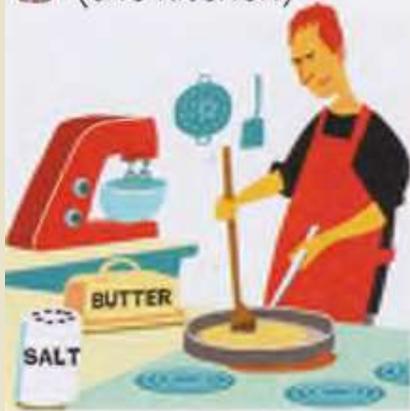
**AT**

We use *at* in many common phrases, especially when we are talking about a place for a specific activity.

We also use *at* for addresses or exact positions.

# In, on or at?

① (the kitchen)



② (the box)



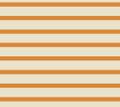
③ (the box)



④ (the wall)



# In, on or at?



5 (the bus stop)



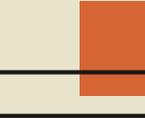
6 (the field)



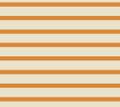
7 (the balcony)



8 (the pool)



# In, on or at?



9 (the window)



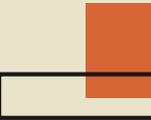
10 (the ceiling)

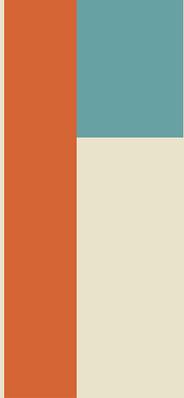


11 (the table)



12 (the table)





ON

# Side note - Tech



- internet, intranet, server, cloud
  - screen, keyboard, dashboard, slides,
  - desktop, laptop, Macbook, PC
  - tablet, ebook reader, Kindle, ipad
  - smart watch, wearable, fit-bit
  - radio, television, gramophone, telephone, ipod, walkman
  - landline, phone, mobile, iphone,
  - social media, Instagram, Twitter, X, TikTok, reddit, Whatsapp
  - Teams, Zoom, Skype, Slack,
  - Google, wikipedia, ChatGPT,
  - PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Windows, Outlook,
- 

# IN hospital vs AT (the) hospital

In hospital

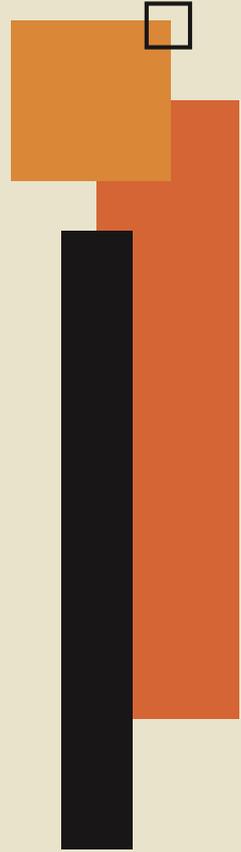
In prison

In school

In nursery

In university

Use **in** when  
using the building  
for its intended  
purpose





**IN hospital, AT (the) hospital**

**At the hospital**

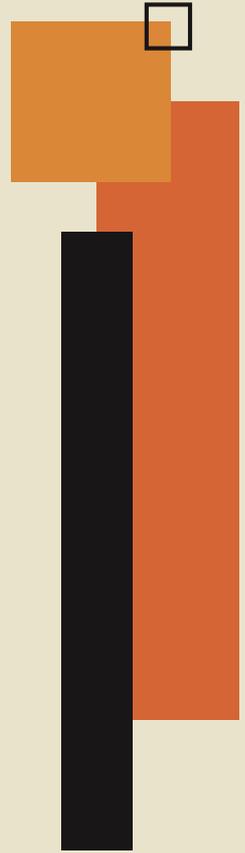
**At the prison**

**At school**

**At nursery**

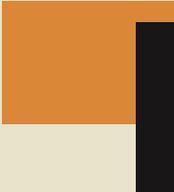
**At university**

Use **at** when  
visiting the  
building or  
working there





# Translation

- 01** Mi amigo trabaja en el hospital  
My friend works at the hospital
  - 02** Mi amiga se rompió la pierna y está en el hospital  
My friend broke her leg and is in hospital
  - 03** ¿Hasta qué hora está tu hija en el colegio?  
What time is your daughter at school until?
- 

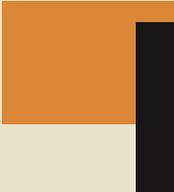


**04** Lleva diez años en la cárcel  
He's been in prison for ten years

**05** Trabaja en el turno de noche en la prisión  
He works the night shift at the prison

**06** No pagas impuestos si vas a la escuela  
You don't pay taxes if you are in school

**07** ¿Dónde está María? Está en la universidad  
Where's Maria? She's at uni



# Prepositions for transport

Strange, but not difficult



# Transport – On



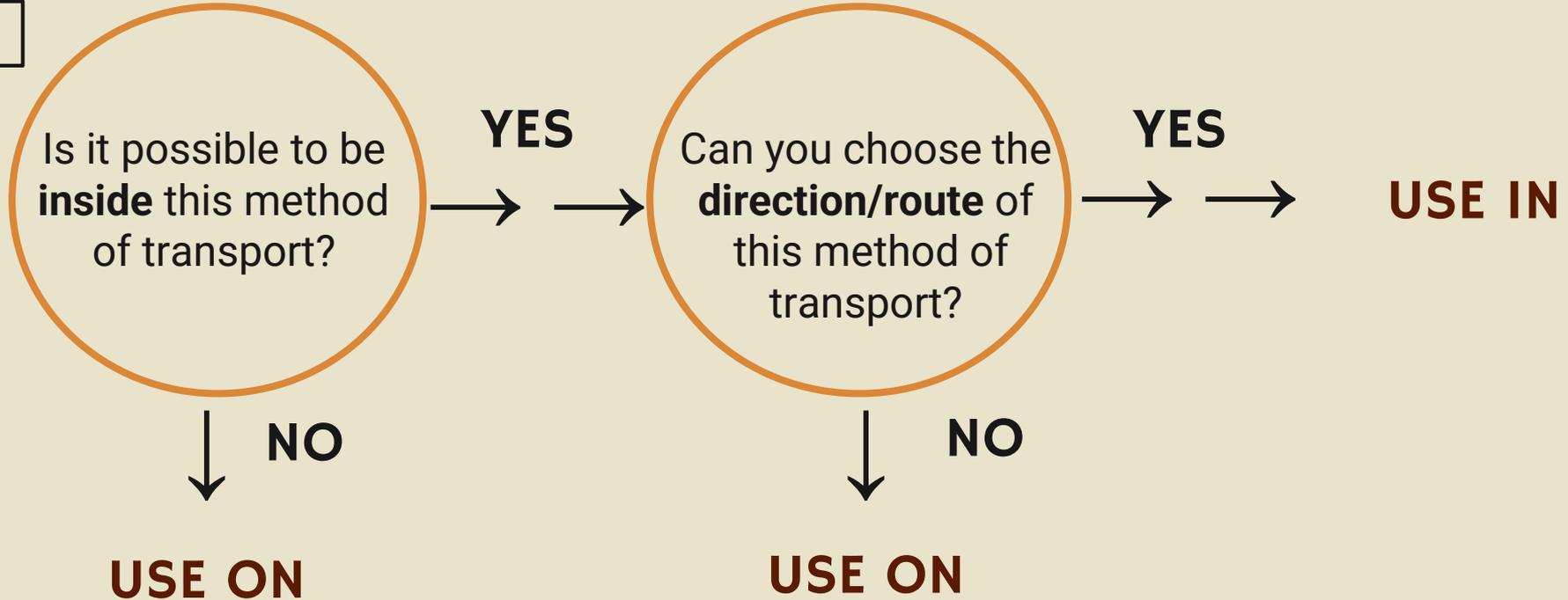
# Transport – On



# Transport – In

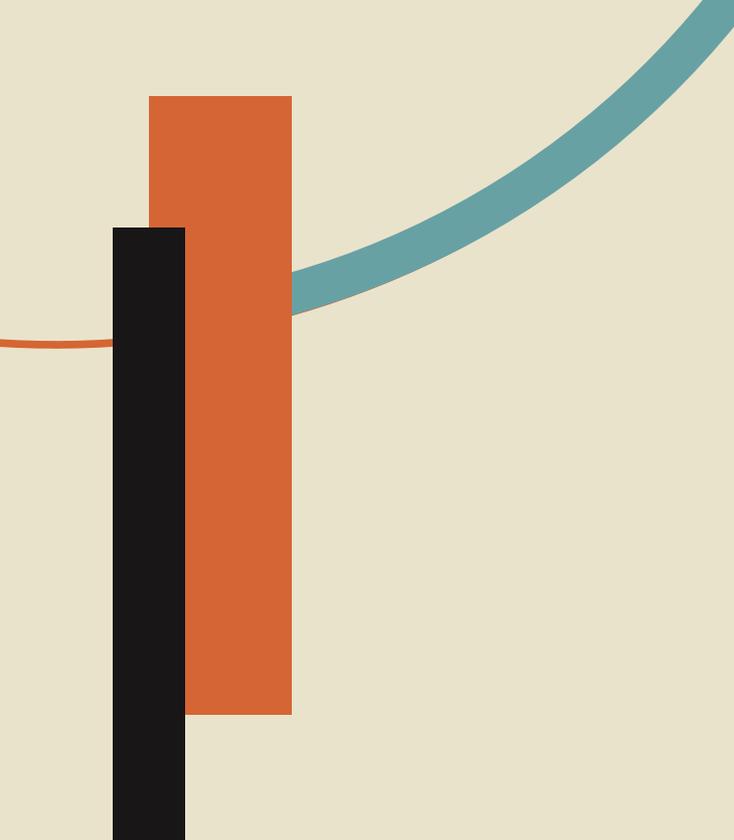


# IN or ON

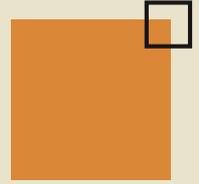


# Transport – On or In?





# Common Confusions



# 03





# Talking about time

For vs. During

# Durante - for or during?

1. Leí un libro durante el vuelo.
2. Ella trabajó durante dos horas.
3. Comimos pizza durante la reunión.
4. Leyó durante 20 minutos.
5. Dormí durante la película.
6. Ella esperó durante cinco minutos.
7. Habló durante la clase.
8. Nos quedamos durante unos días.
9. Cantó durante el concierto.
10. Corrí durante 30 minutos.
11. Descansamos durante el descanso.
12. Durmió durante ocho horas.

1. I read a book **during** the flight.
2. She worked **for** 2 hours.
3. We ate pizza **during** the meeting
4. He read **for** 20 minutes.
5. I slept **during** the film.
6. She waited **for** 5 minutes.
7. He spoke **during** the class.
8. We stayed **for** a few days.
9. He sang **during** the concert.
10. I ran **for** 30 minutes.
11. We rested **during** the break.
12. She slept **for** 8 hours.

# What's going on?



**For** answers the question:

**“How long** did the activity go on?”

**During** answers the question

**“When** did the activity go on?”



# Questions

How many hours did you sleep last night?

I slept **for** (8 hours) last night

How long can you hold your breath?

I can hold my breath **for** (30 seconds)

How long have you been studying English?

I have been studying English **for** (most of my life)

When do you study English?

I study English during the weekends



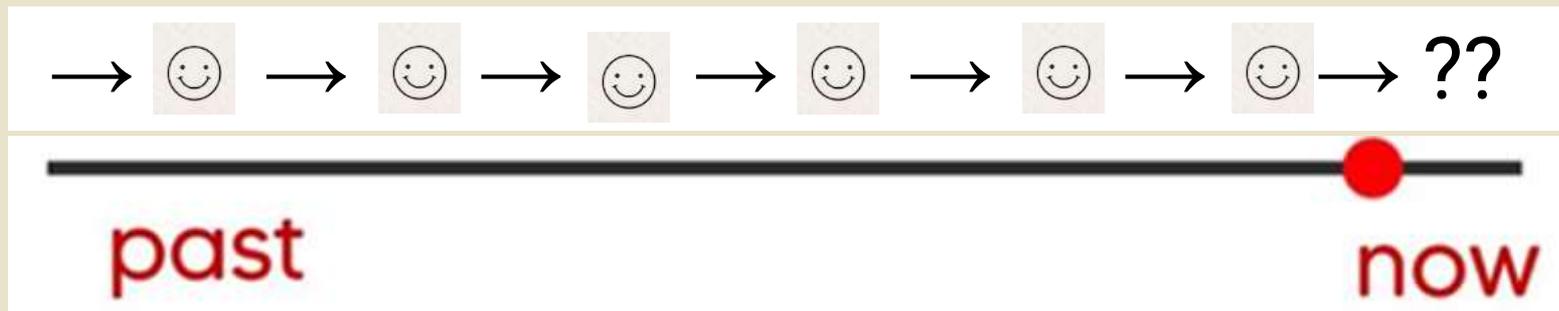
# Talking about time

So far vs Until now

# Hasta ahora - So far vs Until now

**I have enjoyed teaching these seminars so far.**

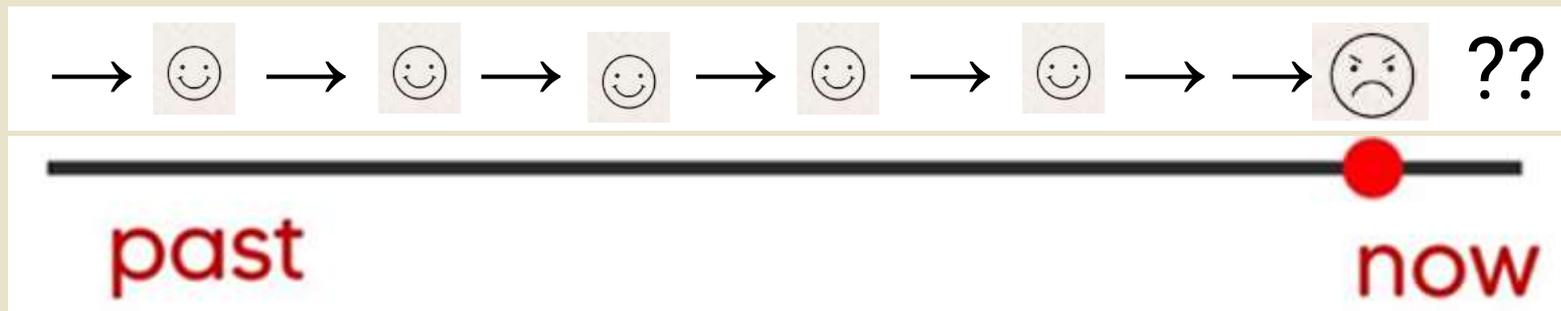
(I enjoyed teaching them in the past. And I enjoy them now. There is no reason to think that I won't enjoy teaching them in the future.)



# Hasta ahora - So far vs Until now

**I have enjoyed teaching these seminars until now.**

(I enjoyed teaching them in the past. But something has just changed. I don't enjoy teaching them now.)



# Test

Hello Graham

We're having a wonderful holiday!

**So far / ~~Until now~~** we've been to Seville, Barcelona and Toledo, and now we're in Madrid! **So far / ~~Until now~~** I thought Seville was the best city we'd ever been to but I think I love Madrid even more. We've been here for 3 days and we're very impressed with what we've seen **so far / ~~until now~~**. We spent the first two days in the Prado looking at Goya's paintings. I didn't know much about his work **so far / ~~until now~~**, but now I'm a huge fan.

See you soon

Hermione xxx

The background features several abstract geometric elements: a small white square with a black outline in the top left; a large orange square below it; a black square with a white outline in the top right; a vertical black bar and an orange bar to its right; a teal curved line on the right side; a black circle overlapping a teal circle in the bottom left; a black horizontal bar at the bottom left; and an orange square with a white outline in the bottom right.

# Talking about place

Between vs Among

# Entre – Between or Among?

**Between** is used when we talk about 2 things:

E.g.

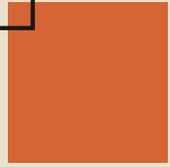
- Andorra lies between Spain and France.
- We'll be finished at some time between 2 and 3 o'clock.
- Between you and me, I think he's going to lose his job.

# Entre – Between or Among?

**Among** is only used when we talk about **more than 2 things**:

E.g.

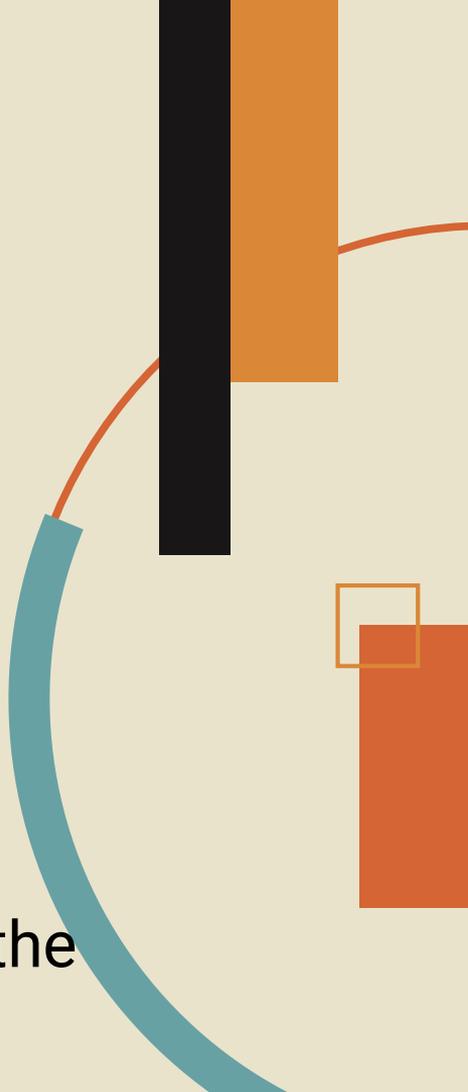
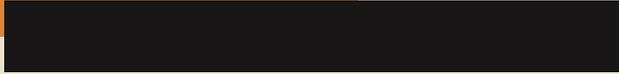
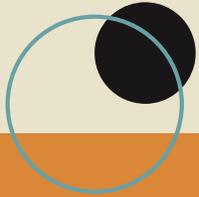
- The teacher was popular among his students.
- He divided the money among his children.
- I saw some familiar faces among the crowd.



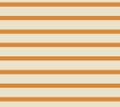
# But...

We also use **between** for 2 or more things that we see as **individual or separate**

- Switzerland lies **between** France, Germany, Austria and Italy.
- He divided the kingdom **between** his sons.
- We split the bill **between** the three of us.



# Test

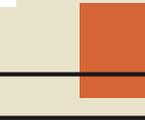


In 1989 the rock band **Kiss** released a song called what?

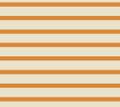


A. Somewhere among heaven and hell

B. Somewhere between heaven and hell



# Test



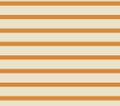
How does Tom Petty's song, wildflowers, start?



- A. You belong **among** the wildflowers
- B. You belong **between** the wildflowers



# Test

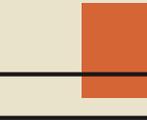


What is the correct translation of: **destacar entre los demas?**

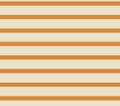
A. To stand out **among** the rest



B. To stand out **between** the rest



# Test



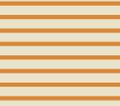
What is the correct translation of the Spanish idiom:  
**estar entre la espada y la pared?**

A. To be **among** a rock and a hard place

B. To be **between** a rock and a hard place



# Test

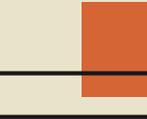


What is the correct translation of the Spanish idiom:  
**meter los perros en danza?**

A. To put a cat **among** the pigeons



B. To put a cat **between** the pigeons



# Test

What is the correct preposition for this sentence?

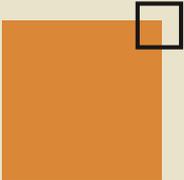
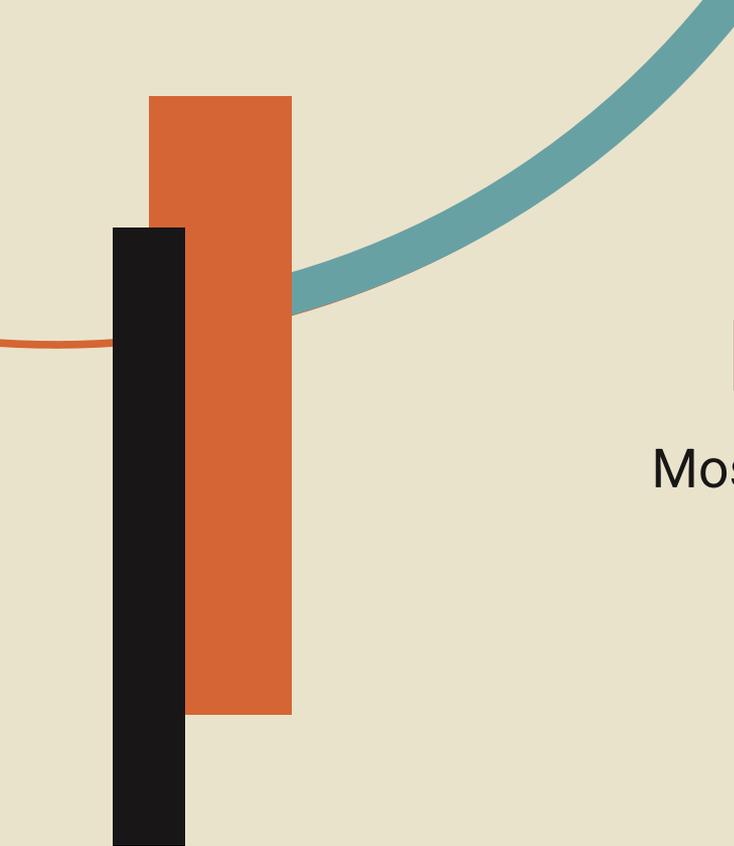
*“The rivalry \_\_\_\_\_ the players on Real Madrid's bench for a starting position is intense.”*

A. among



B. between

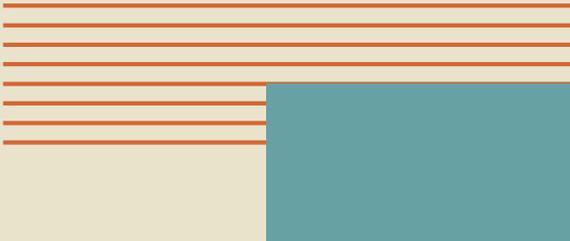




# Dependent Prepositions

Most common mistakes for  
Spanish speakers

# 04



# No preposition in Spanish

Escucho la radio    I listen **to** the radio

Según su sitio web...    According **to** their website

Espérame!    Wait **for** me!

Logramos terminar    We managed **to** finish

Pagar algo    To pay **for** something (NB pay someone)

Explíqueme la situación    Explain the situation (to me)

# Preposition in Spanish (but not in English)

Llegamos a casa      We got home

Contactar con nosotros      Contact us

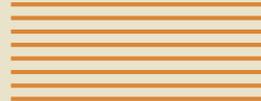
Asiste a la reunión      Attend the meeting

No puedo reunirme con el      I can't meet him

Confía en mi      Trust me



Culpo al presidente      I blame the president



# Don't Blame it on me

## Michael Bublé

Can't **blame the stars** for shinin'  
Can't **blame the birds** for flyin'  
Can't **blame a guy** for tryin'  
But sure I fell, but I had help, take a look  
at yourself

Here I stand, falsely accused  
But I'm just a man, and the mastermind  
was you  
I'd take credit if I could, but I've never  
been that good  
It just worked out beautifully, so don't  
**blame it on me (don't blame it on me)**

Everybody knows, can't **blame the stars**  
for shinin'  
Can't **blame the birds** for flyin'  
Can't **blame a guy** for tryin'  
But sure I fell, but I had help, take a look  
at yourself

I don't **blame it on me** for falling in love  
with you  
Anybody could see there was nothing I  
could do  
You just shot me that look and, baby, I  
was hooked  
It just worked out beautifully, so don't  
**blame it on me (don't blame it on me)**

# Different preposition in Spanish

Culpar de algo a      Blame something on

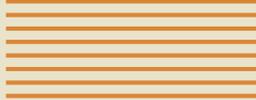
Responsable de      Responsible for

Depende de      Depends on

Decidir por      Decide on

Relacionado con      Related to

Sonreír a      Smile at



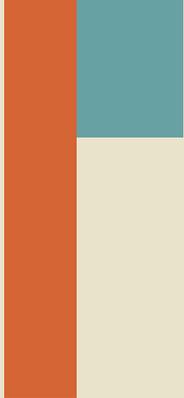
# Side note: AT VS TO

smile at  
laugh at  
look at

shout at vs shout to  
throw at vs throw to  
wave at vs wave to

speaking at vs speaking to  
talk at vs talk to  
point at vs point to





# Change the preposition, change the meaning

. **Think**

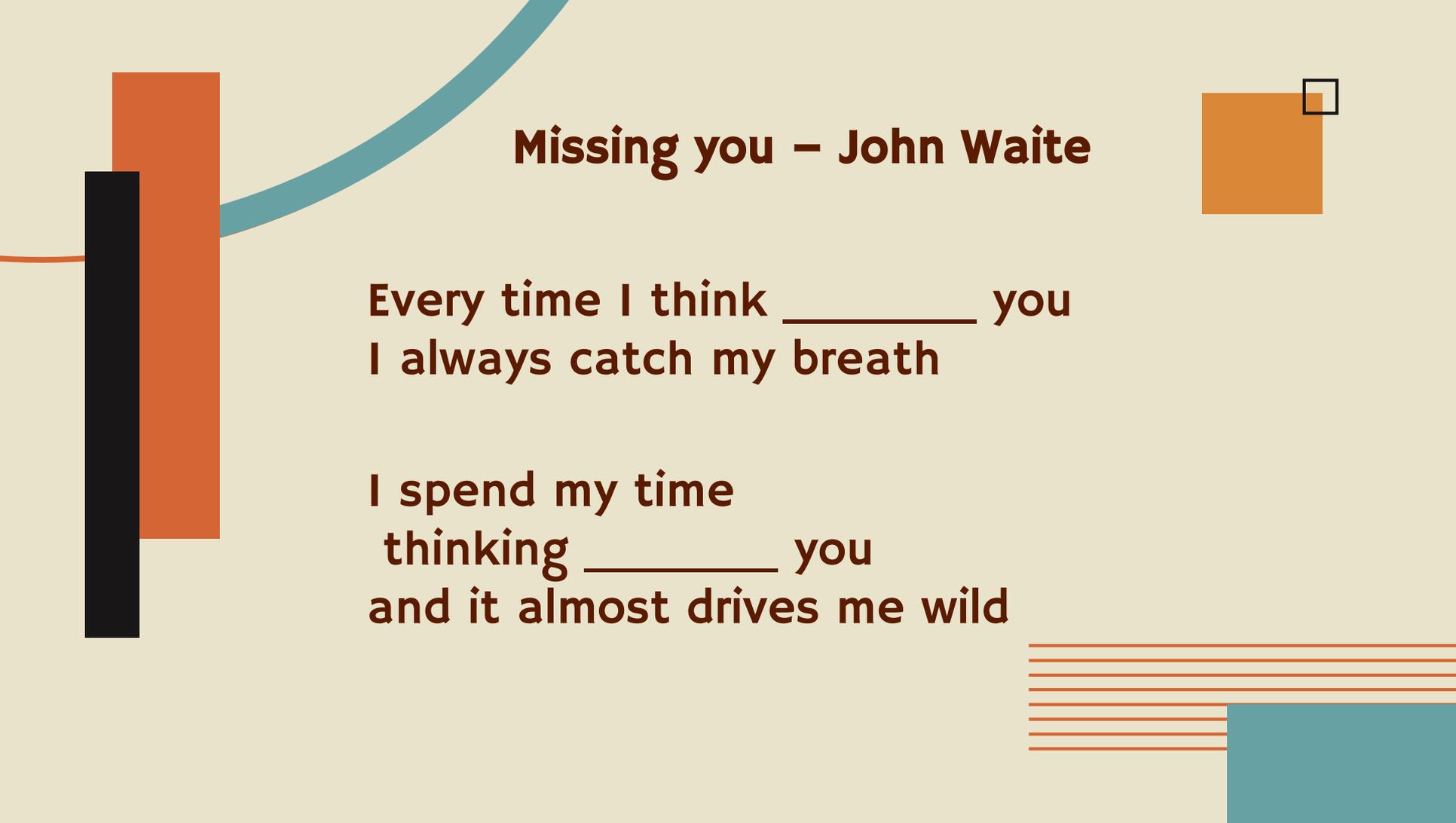
+ **in** (languages)

+ **of** (people)  
(opinion)

(spontaneous thought)

+ **about** (considered thought)

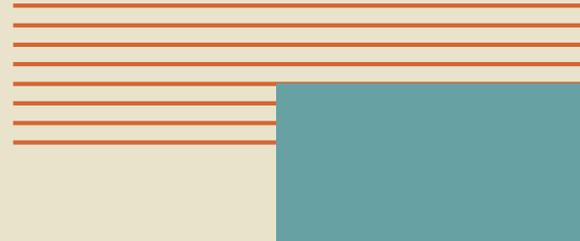


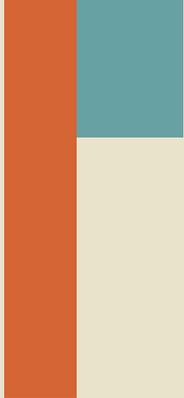


## Missing you – John Waite

Every time I think \_\_\_\_\_ you  
I always catch my breath

I spend my time  
thinking \_\_\_\_\_ you  
and it almost drives me wild





# Change the preposition, change the meaning

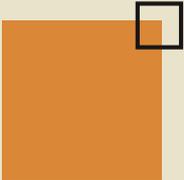
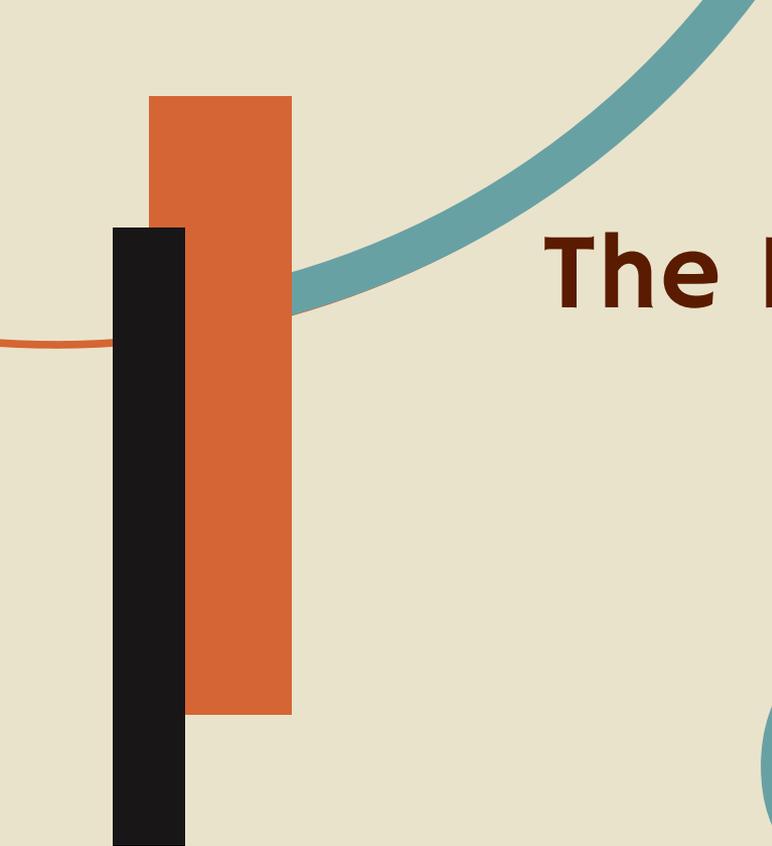
## Work

+ **at** (where do you work?)

+ **for** (who do you work for?)

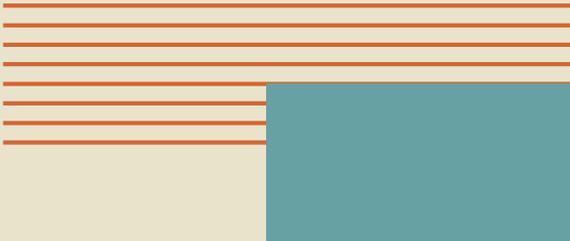
+ **in** (what area or industry?)  
(what building?)





# The Logic of Phrasal Verbs

05



# The Logic of Phrasal Verbs

Put (something) on / Take (something) off (clothes, a watch etc)

Put (something) in / Take (something) out (bag, a box etc)

Put (something) up / Take (something) down (a photo, a picture etc)

Come/Go in / Go/Come out (a room, an office etc)

Go into / Go/Come out of (a building, a room etc)

Get on / Get off (a bus, a train, a chair etc)

Get in / Get out (a bus, a train, a chair etc)

# The Logic of Phrasal Verbs

Give (something) to / Take (something) from (a person, an animal etc)

Pick (something) up / Put (something) down (the phone, a baby etc)

Hang (something) up / Take (something) down (a coat, a picture etc)

Turn (something) on / Turn (something) off (the TV, the radio, a tap etc)

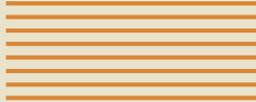
Turn (something) up / Turn (something) down (the TV, music etc)

Walk towards / Walk away from (someone, a building etc)

Walk up to / Walk away from (someone, a door etc)

# The Snowman

How many of the phrasal verbs from the last two slides did you see?



# Further study

Use the internet to practice gap fills, but avoid generative AI for now (it still makes a lot of mistakes with preposition exercises)



If there's a preposition mistake that you know you keep making, try to find a song lyric or expression you know well in English that uses it correctly. Lyrics.com is your friend for this.

If you're genuinely interested in the logic behind phrasal verbs, visit <https://www.phrasalverbdemon.com/>



## PHRASALVERBDEMON

✓ Making sense of phrasal verbs

# THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

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