

A Time in relation to now

Now means at this moment. **Then** means at another moment (usually in the past).

I was born in Edinburgh. **Then** we moved to London. **Now** I live in Cambridge.



It is 10 o'clock now.

I got up four hours ago, at 6 o'clock.

An hour ago it was 9 o'clock.

two years
2008–2010

for two years
from 2008 to 2010

2008 → 2010

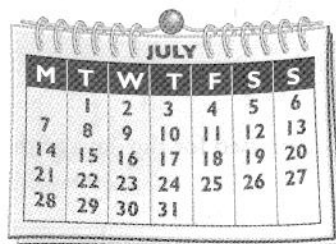
last year / last week / last Saturday

next year / next week / next summer

It is July now.

Last month it was June.

Next month it will be August.

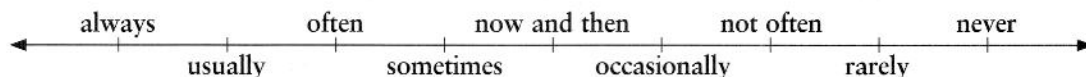


When we talk about time in general, we talk about **the past**, **the present** and **the future**.

In **the past** people didn't have television.

People may travel to Mars **in the future**.

B Frequency adverbs



It **always** snows in Russia in winter.

It **often** rains in the UK.

The Ancient Romans **never** went to America or Australia.

C Expressions

Notice the use of **a** in these expressions of frequency.

once [one time] a week: I go swimming **once** a week, every Saturday.

twice [two times] a day: I clean my teeth **twice** a day.

three times a year: I see my uncle **three times** a year.

four times a month: I play football **four or five times** a month.

I'll be with you **in a moment**. [a very short time]

Jane's in Paris **at the moment**. [now]

See you **soon!** [in a short time]

We met **recently**. [not long ago]

Exercises

51.1 Fill the gaps with a preposition from the opposite page.

¹In..... the past, Rosa worked in many different countries. Rosa worked in Hong Kong ²..... three years, ³..... 1993 ⁴..... 1996. ⁵..... the moment she is working in Tokyo. She will stay there ⁶..... two more years.

51.2 Draw lines to match the centuries to their time.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------|
| 1 the 19th century | — | the past |
| 2 the 22nd century | | the present |
| 3 the 18th century | | the future |
| 4 the 21st century | | |
| 5 the 20th century | | |

51.3 Are these sentences true about you? If not, write them out correctly. Use other frequency adverbs from B opposite.

- 1 I always go swimming on Fridays. I sometimes go swimming on Fridays.
- 2 I usually go to school / work by bus.
- 3 I occasionally watch TV.
- 4 I rarely drink milk.
- 5 I often wear a hat.
- 6 I rarely eat chocolate.
- 7 I always go to bed at 10.
- 8 I never go to the theatre.

51.4 Read the sentences and answer the questions.

- 1 Peter will get his exam results very soon.
Do you think Peter will get them next year, next month or tomorrow? Probably tomorrow
- 2 Harriet and Rupert met for the first time recently.
Do you think they first met last year, six months ago or a week ago?
- 3 I'll help you in a moment.
Do you think I'll help you next week, in two hours or in a few minutes?
- 4 It's 6 o'clock now.
Two hours ago it started to snow. What time was it then?

51.5 Look at the table and write sentences using expressions like *once a week*, *three times a month*, etc.

John plays tennis twice a week.

	play tennis	practise the piano	have a business meeting in Germany
John	Mondays and Thursdays	Saturdays	the first Friday every month
Bettina and Amy	Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays	every morning and every evening	once in January, March, May, July, August and December every year