



# Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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## **Banta learning Prepositions 3 by K S Sandhu**

Mr. Bains' Adventure in Crete

Mr Bains is a teacher from London. He loves travelling and nature, so last summer he decided to visit Crete in Greece. He booked a famous day trip: hiking through the Samaria Gorge, the longest gorge in Europe.

The tour company sent him clear instructions. His bus would pick him up from his hotel at 6.00 in the morning on 15 June, a Saturday. "Please be ready by that time," the email said, "or you may miss the group." Mr Bains set his alarm for 5.00 so he could have breakfast before leaving.

The bus arrived on time and drove everyone to the top of the gorge near Omalos. They reached the entrance at 7.30. The guide explained the rules: "The hike takes about six hours. We will stop for thirty minutes at the beginning so you can buy water and snacks. During the walk, drink at least one litre of water on the day – it's very hot and important to stay hydrated."

Mr Bains started walking at 8.00. The path went down steeply at first, with amazing views of high cliffs and pine trees. In the morning, the air was cool and fresh. He walked steadily, taking photos and chatting with other tourists from different countries.

Around midday, the sun became stronger. Mr Bains was glad he had brought enough water. He drank regularly during the hottest hours to avoid feeling tired. The group stopped for a short break at a water spring, where everyone refilled their bottles.

After many hours of walking, they finally reached the bottom in the early afternoon, at about 2.00 p.m. In Agia Roumeli, a small village by the sea, Mr Bains felt very proud. "I did it!" he thought. The guide said, "You are free until 5.00 p.m. Relax, have lunch, and swim in the sea in the afternoon if you want."

Mr Bains ate a Greek salad and some fresh fish at a restaurant by the beach. At 4.50 p.m., he walked to the harbour. The boat left at 5.00 exactly and sailed along the beautiful coast for about forty minutes to Paleochora. From there, the bus took everyone back to their hotels, arriving in the evening around 8.30. On the way back, Mr Bains talked to his new friends. "What a fantastic day!" he said. "We started early in the morning, walked all day, and returned late in the evening." Everyone agreed it was exhausting but unforgettable.

Mr Bains learned many things during his trip: how to prepare for a long hike, the importance of water on hot days, and how beautiful Crete is in summer. He promised himself to book another adventure next year – perhaps in autumn, when the weather is cooler. Back in London, he showed photos to his students. "One day," he told them, "you can hike the Samaria Gorge too!"

### **Questions:**

Question 1: What time did Mr. Patel's bus pick him up from the hotel?

Question 2: How much water did the guide tell the group to drink on the day of the hike?

Question 3: When did the group reach the bottom of the gorge?

Question 4: What time did the boat leave Agia Roumeli?

Question 5: Why did Mr Bains promise to book another adventure next year?

### **Answers:**

Answer 1: The bus picked him up at 6.00 in the morning (or at 6.00 a.m.).

Answer 2: The guide told them to drink at least one litre of water on the day.

Answer 3: They reached the bottom in the early afternoon, at about 2.00 p.m.

Answer 4: The boat left at 5.00 p.m. (exactly / on time).

Answer 5: He promised to book another adventure next year because the hike was exhausting but unforgettable, and he wanted to try another trip (perhaps in autumn when the weather is cooler).

# 16 Prepositions of time

What time's your connection?

B29



## 1 at, in, on

We use

- **at** to introduce a time:  
*The flight's at six o'clock.*
- **in** for a point within a longer period of time:  
*I get to Australia in the morning.*
- **on** to introduce dates and days:  
*We arrive on Thursday. The course ends on 11 July.*

	COMMON USES	EXAMPLES
<b>at</b>	special occasions mealtimes + night/the weekend	<i>We usually have fireworks at New Year. The managers have business meetings at breakfast. It's quiet here at night. We always sleep late at the weekend.</i>
<b>in</b>	parts of the day months and seasons years and centuries	<i>I never work well in the afternoon. Is your birthday in October? We don't go away in the summer. I was born in 1984. The world changed in the last century.</i>
<b>on</b>	special days parts of days of the week	<i>Do you have a birthday cake on your birthday? I last saw him on Thursday afternoon.</i>

⚠ With some time expressions (e.g. *this/last/next/every morning, week, year*, etc.) we don't use a preposition:

- ✗ *The French market comes in every March.* ✓ *The French market comes every March.*  
*What time did you have breakfast this morning?* *The new gym opened last month.*

## 2 in, within, by, (from) ... until

We use

- **in** to talk about a completed period of time:  
*They finished painting the hall in only two days.*
- **within** to mean 'before a period of time has passed':  
*You should have the results within 24 hours.*
- **by** to mean 'not later than': *I need your essays by Friday.* (on or before Friday)
- **(from) ... until/to** for a period of time ending at a certain point:  
*The play didn't finish until midnight. Tickets are available to the end of the month.  
The holiday season runs from July until October.*

**NATURAL ENGLISH** We often use *till* instead of *until* in everyday English:  
*We stayed in the club from about 9.00 till closing time.*

American English *on the weekend, Friday through Sunday* ➤ page 352

## 3 for, during, last (for)

We use

- **for** with a period of time; it means 'the whole time': *We waited for the bus for an hour.*
- **during** to mean 'at one point in a period of time': *My bike was stolen during the night.*

We also use *during* when we mean 'for a while' or 'all through a period of time': *I'll try to sleep during the flight.*

Notice the difference between *during* and *for*: *We went away for two weeks during July.*

*Jason was in hospital for several months during his childhood.*

With the verb *last for*, it is possible to leave out the preposition: *The course lasts (for) ten weeks.*

*for* and *since* with present perfect ➤ Unit 37.3

## Practice

- 1 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Read the message and choose the correct words (or -) in *italics*.

Mr Lewis – here are your flight details for later this week:

You depart from Heathrow (0) at on 8.30 (1) – / *in* the morning (2) *on* / *in* 23 April (Thursday).

You arrive in Dubai (3) *to* / *at* 5.20 (4) *in* / *at* the evening. Unfortunately, you can't leave the airport

(5) *during* / *for* this stopover. You then leave Dubai (6) – / *at* 8.45 and you arrive in Bangkok (7) *at* / *on*

6.30 (8) *in* / – the next morning. You're then going to fly to Hong Kong (9) – / *on* next Friday, and

return to the UK (10) *in* / *during* ten days, but we haven't finalised those last two flights yet.

- 2 Replace the underlined words with a suitable preposition (if necessary) and a phrase from the box. **2.31** Listen and check.

four days ~~the weekend~~ the summer fifteen minutes 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.  
the afternoon two hours this evening four o'clock

- 0 Will the gardens be open on Saturday and Sunday? *at the weekend* .....
- 1 I find it really difficult to work after lunch. .....
- 2 It's Monday now. We'll be in touch with your results by Friday. .....
- 3 I'm working in Paris from June until September. .....
- 4 Planes aren't allowed to take off or land at night at this airport. .....
- 5 The oral exam was really short. It started at 9.00 and lasted till 9.15. .....
- 6 It's 3.30 now. I'll wait for another thirty minutes, then I have to go. .....
- 7 Don't worry, it's only 10.30 – we'll be finished by lunchtime. .....
- 8 I met Luke this afternoon; he said he'd come round in a few hours. .....

- 3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the text with prepositions from this unit. Write – if no preposition is necessary. **2.32** Listen and check.

### The Samaria Gorge Experience

**Thank you for booking this trip with Andreas Travel.  
Please read these notes about your trip.**

Your bus will meet you at your hotel at the time on your ticket. Please be at the meeting point (0) *by* ..... this time, or you may have to take a taxi to the start of the walk.

We will arrive at the top of the gorge (1) ..... 7.00 a.m. We will stop here

(2) ..... about 30 minutes so that you can have breakfast and buy some snacks and some water. Please note that you will need to drink at least a litre of water

(3) ..... the day. The path through the gorge is easy to follow. We will meet you

again at the bottom in Agia Roumeli, where you are welcome to join us at Stavros

Restaurant (4) ..... 3.00 p.m. for a drink and a snack. You are then free

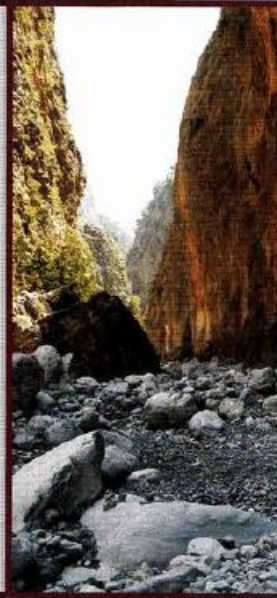
(5) ..... 5.00 p.m., when the boat leaves for Paleochora. Please be at the harbour

(6) ..... 4.50 p.m. The boat trip lasts (7) ..... about 40 minutes, and your

bus will meet you for the journey back to your hotel.

Have a fantastic day!

PS We run tours (8) ..... every day, including Sundays, so why not book another trip with us? -



## Answers

### UNIT 16

- 1** 1 in 2 on 3 at 4 in 5 during 6 at 7 at  
8 - 9 - 10 in
- 2** 1 in the afternoon 2 in/within four days  
3 during the summer 4 from 11 p.m. to  
6 a.m. 5 (for) fifteen minutes 6 until/till/to four  
o'clock 7 in/within two hours 8 this evening
- 3** 1 at 2 for 3 during 4 at 5 until/till  
6 by 7 -/for 8 -