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Niveau: L2

Module : Anglais

On time / In time

On time

We use *on time* to say that something happened 'exactly at the planned time'. We use it when speaking about timetables and arrangements. *On time* suggests that something or someone is neither late nor early.

- *I want to start the meeting **on time** so please don't be late.*
- *The films at this cinema never start **on time** – they always start late because of all the advertisements.*

Examples:

- Joe asked if the flight was on time?
- I don't think Kate will complete the project on time.

In time

If we say we arrived *in time*, we're saying that we got there a little early – that there was time to spare.

We often use the structure *in time to do something*:

- *We arrived **in time to get** some drinks before the show started.*
- *You need to get to the station **in time to buy** a ticket and find the right platform for your train.*

We also say *just in time*:

- *The man was seriously injured in the crash. I think the ambulance got to him **just in time**. (= In time to save him.)*
- *Come in, Lily! You're **just in time** for a cup of tea and some biscuits. (= I'm just preparing tea and biscuits.)*

Examples:

- She arrived just in time for the class.
- I want to reach home in time, to meet the guests.

Comparison Chart

BASIS FOR COMPARISON	ON TIME	IN TIME
Meaning	On time means timely, i.e. when something is planned or expected to take place at a specified time and it takes place accordingly.	In time means not late or eventually, i.e. when something takes place at the last moment.
Indicates	Punctuality	Tardiness
Used for	Duties or obligations	Deadlines
Antonym	Late	Too Late
Examples	Alex is the only employee in this office, who is always on time.	The child wants to get home in time, to watch his favorite cartoon.
	She arrived at the exam hall on time.	Will she reach there in time?
	Maybe the train left on time, and we are late.	She may feel comfortable in time.