

## B Doing things at the right time

The other day I **fixed up** a meeting with the staff for 10 o'clock. I was there at ten **on the dot**, and almost everyone else was there **in good time**; everyone, that is, except Kevin. He **kept us waiting** for twenty minutes, then **turned up** with his usual excuse that he'd **been held up** on the train. He does this **over and over again**, and it's the same with his work: he only gets things done **right at the last minute**. I've spoken to him about all this, but I'm just **wasting my breath**. It's **only a matter of time** before he has to leave.



### Glossary

the other day

fix sth up

on the dot

in good time

keep sb waiting

turn up

hold sb up

over and over again


(right) at the last minute

waste your breath

(only) a matter of time

recently; a few days ago.

arrange for sth to happen.

at exactly the time you mentioned or arranged. (  See page 144.)

before the time you need to be somewhere or do sth.

make sb wait for you.

arrive (often used when sb arrives late or doesn't arrive at all).

(usually passive) cause a delay or make sb late.

many times; repeatedly. SYN **time and time again**.

at the latest possible time.

say things that sb doesn't listen to or take notice of.

used to say that sth will definitely happen, but you don't know when.

5 Replace the underlined words and phrases with an idiom or phrasal verb that has a similar meaning.

- ▶ I'd like to get to the airport before the time we need to be there. *in good* ..... time.
- 1 She's very punctual – always gets to the office at 9 a.m. exactly. on ..... again
- 2 I've told him repeatedly, and it's getting on my nerves. .... again
- 3 He made me wait. kept ..... up
- 4 Have you arranged your appointment yet? ..... minute
- 5 He cancelled his trip just before it was too late. .... up
- 6 I don't often get delayed on my way to work. .... up
- 7 I saw my cousin very recently, just by chance. the ..... up
- 8 What time did she arrive last night? .....

6 Complete the sentences. (You will answer the questions in Exercise 7.)

- 1 Do you normally arrive in good ..... for school, college, or work?
- 2 Do you ever ..... people waiting? If so, when?
- 3 Do you often ..... up late for social arrangements? If so, when?
- 4 Do you ever do things at the last .....? If so, what?
- 5 Do you often get held ..... on your way to somewhere? If so, when?
- 6 Do you ever give people advice, but feel you're wasting your .....?

7 ABOUT YOU Write your answers to the questions in Exercise 6 in your notebook, or ask another student.