

AT IN BY THE END



AT THE END

At the end is most commonly used literally, as a prepositional phrase followed by of, to refer to the end of a specific noun. This noun can be a physical object, a period of time, an event, a place, or something more abstract, such as one's patience.

- **At the end** of his life, he had no regrets.
- Put a period **at the end** of every sentence.
- I pay the phone bill **at the end** of each month.

IN THE END

In the end is used mostly as an idiom that means "finally," "after a long time," or "when everything is considered." It is often followed by a comma. Here are some sentences with this idiom:

- We worked hard, and **in the end**, we achieved our goal.
- **In the end**, what really matters in a friendship is trust.
- **In the end**, she chose to go to Oberlin College.

BY THE END

The phrase "**by the end**" tells us that something happened/will happen before the ending of something. It suggests the idea of 'progress up to a particular time'.

- **By the end** of the day we had sold over 2,000 tickets
- The construction will be completed **by the end** of the year.
- **By the end** of the meeting we solved the problem.

AT THE END OF THE DAY (phrase)

something that you say before you give the most important fact of a situation:

- Of course I'll listen to what she has to say but **at the end of the day**, it's my decision.
- **At the end of the day**, the board's not going to be concerned with three or four more dollars.

AT THE END vs BY THE END

Notice the difference between the following sentences :

- The baby made a huge mess **at the end** of the party.
[=during the final moments of the party]
- The baby made a huge mess **by the end** of the party.
[=the baby had been making a mess for the whole party, and when the party ended, the mess was huge]
- **At the end** of the meeting we solved the problem.
[=during the last minutes/moments of the meeting]
- **By the end** of the meeting we solved the problem.
[=we worked throughout the meeting to find a solution, and when the meeting ended we had a solution]