

In/at/on (position) 3

A

In hospital / at work etc.

We say that somebody is **in hospital** / **in prison** / **in jail**:

- ☐ Anna's mother is **in hospital**.

We say that somebody is **at work** / **at school** / **at university** / **at college**:

- ☐ I'll be **at work** until 5.30.
☐ Julia is studying chemistry **at university**.

We say that somebody **is at home** or **is home** (with or without **at**), but we say **do something at home** (with **at**):

- ☐ I'll **be at home** all evening. or I'll **be home** all evening.
☐ Shall we go to a restaurant or **eat at home**?

B

At a party / at a concert etc.

We say that somebody is **at** an event (**at a party** / **at a conference** etc.):

- ☐ Were there many people **at the party** / **at the meeting** / **at the wedding**?
☐ I saw Steve **at a conference** / **at a concert** on Saturday.

C

In and at for buildings

You can often use **in** or **at** with buildings. For example, you can eat **in a restaurant** or **at a restaurant**; you can buy something **in a supermarket** or **at a supermarket**. We usually say **at** when we say where an event takes place (for example: a concert, a film, a party, a meeting):

- ☐ We went to a concert **at the National Concert Hall**.
☐ The meeting took place **at the company's head office** in Frankfurt.
☐ There was a robbery **at the supermarket**.

We say **at the station** / **at the airport**:

- ☐ There's no need to meet me **at the station**. I can get a taxi.

We say **at** somebody's house:

- ☐ I was **at Helen's house** last night. or I was **at Helen's** last night.

Also **at the doctor's** / **at the hairdresser's** etc.We use **in** when we are thinking about the building itself. Compare:

- ☐ We had dinner **at the hotel**.
 All the rooms **in the hotel** have air conditioning. (*not at the hotel*)
☐ I was **at Helen's (house)** last night.
 It's always cold **in Helen's house**. The heating doesn't work well. (*not at Helen's house*)

D

In and at for towns etc.

We normally use **in** with cities, towns and villages:

- ☐ The Louvre is a famous art museum **in Paris**. (*not at Paris*)
☐ Sam's parents live **in a village** in the south of France. (*not at a village*)

We use **at** when we think of the place as a point or station on a journey:

- ☐ Does this train stop **at Oxford**? (= at Oxford station)

E

On a bus / in a car etc.

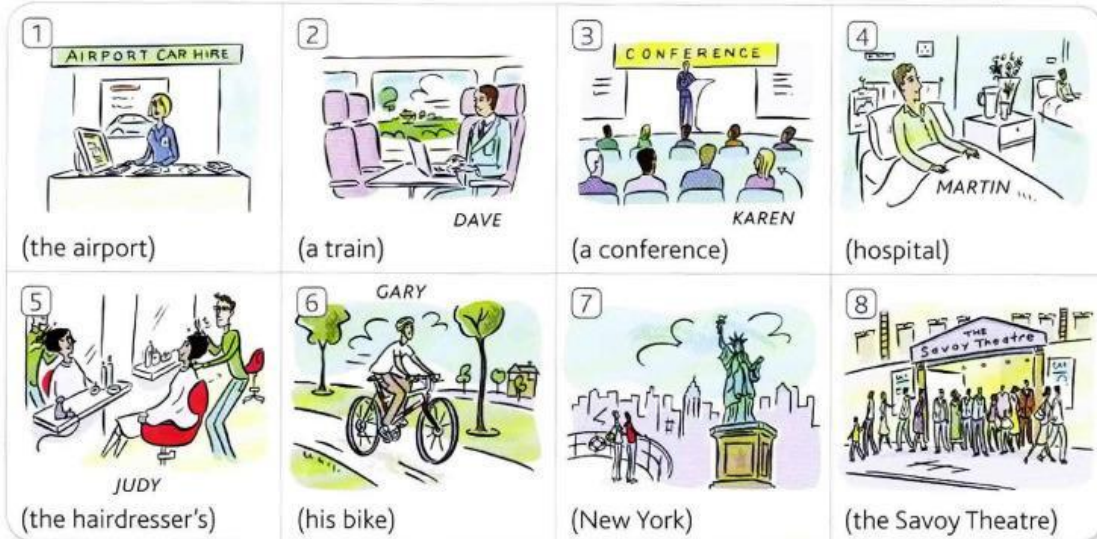
We usually say **on a bus** / **on a train** / **on a plane** / **on a ship** *but* **in a car** / **in a taxi**:

- ☐ **The bus** was very full. There were too many people **on it**.
☐ Laura arrived **in a taxi**.

We say **on a bike** (= bicycle) / **on a motorbike** / **on a horse**:

- ☐ Jane passed me **on her bike**.

125.1 Complete the sentences about the pictures. Use **in**, **at** or **on** with the words below the pictures.



- 1 You can hire a car at the airport.
- 2 Dave is _____.
- 3 Karen is _____.
- 4 Martin is _____.
- 5 Judy is _____.
- 6 I saw Gary _____.
- 7 We spent a few days _____.
- 8 We went to a show _____.

125.2 Complete the sentences. Use **in**, **at** or **on** + the following:

the plane hospital a taxi the station the cinema
Tokyo school prison the airport the sports centre

- 1 My train arrives at 11.30. Can you meet me at the station?
- 2 We walked to the restaurant, but we went home _____.
- 3 I'd like to see a film. What's on _____ this week?
- 4 Some people are _____ for crimes that they did not commit.
- 5 'What does your sister do? Does she have a job?' 'No, she's still _____.'
- 6 I play basketball _____ on Friday evenings.
- 7 A friend of mine was injured in an accident a few days ago. She's still _____.
- 8 Our flight was delayed. We had to wait _____ for four hours.
- 9 I enjoyed the flight, but the food _____ wasn't very nice.
- 10 Vicky has gone to Japan. She's living _____.

125.3 Complete these sentences with **in**, **at** or **on**.

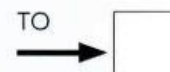
- 1 We went to a concert at the National Concert Hall.
- 2 It was a very slow train. It stopped _____ every station.
- 3 My parents live _____ a small village about 50 miles from London.
- 4 I haven't seen Kate for some time. I last saw her _____ David's wedding.
- 5 We stayed _____ a very comfortable hotel when we were _____ Amsterdam.
- 6 There were about fifty rooms _____ the hotel.
- 7 I don't know where my umbrella is. Perhaps I left it _____ the bus.
- 8 'Where were you on Monday evening?' 'I was _____ a friend's house.'
- 9 There must be somebody _____ the house. The lights are on.
- 10 The exhibition _____ the Museum of Modern Art finishes on Saturday.
- 11 Shall we travel _____ your car or mine?
- 12 I didn't expect you to be _____ home. I thought you'd be _____ work.
- 13 'Did you like the movie?' 'Yes, but it was too hot _____ the cinema.'
- 14 Paul lives _____ Birmingham. He's a student _____ Birmingham University.

To/at/in/into

A

We say **go/come/travel** (etc.) **to** a place or event. For example:

go to China	go to bed	come to my house
go back to Italy	go to the bank	be taken to hospital
return to London	go to a concert	be sent to prison
welcome somebody to a place		drive to the airport



- ☐ When are your friends **going back to** Italy? (*not* going back in Italy)
- ☐ Three people were injured in the accident and **taken to** hospital.
- ☐ **Welcome to** our country! (*not* Welcome in)

In the same way we say 'a **journey to** / a **trip to** / a **visit to** / on **my way to** ...' etc.:

- ☐ Did you enjoy **your trip to** Paris / **your visit to** the zoo?

Compare **to** (for *movement*) and **in/at** (for *position*):

- ☐ They are **going to** France. *but* They **live in** France.
- ☐ Can you **come to** the party? *but* I'll **see you at** the party.

We say **been to** a place or an event:

- ☐ I've **been to Italy** four times, but I've never **been to Rome**.
- ☐ Amanda has never **been to a football match** in her life.

B

Get and arrive

We say **get to** a place:

- ☐ What time did they **get to London** / **to work** / **to the hotel**?

But we say **arrive in** ... or **arrive at** ... (*not* arrive to).

We say **arrive in** a town, city or country:

- ☐ They **arrived in London** / **in Spain** a week ago.

For other places (buildings etc.) or events, we say **arrive at**:

- ☐ When did they **arrive at the hotel** / **at the airport** / **at the party**?

C

Home

We say **go home** / **come home** / **get home** / **arrive home** / **on the way home** etc. (no preposition).

We do not say 'to home':

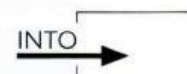
- ☐ I'm tired. Let's **go home** now. (*not* go to home)
- ☐ I met Lisa **on my way home**. (*not* my way to home)

D

Into

Go into, get into ... etc. = enter (a room / a building / a car etc.):

- ☐ I opened the door, **went into** the room and sat down.
- ☐ A bird **flew into** the kitchen through the window.
- ☐ Every month, my salary **is paid** directly **into** my bank account.



With some verbs (especially **go/get/put**) we often use **in** (instead of **into**):

- ☐ She **got in** the car and drove away. (*or* She **got into** the car ...)
- ☐ I read the letter and **put it** back **in** the envelope.

The opposite of **into** is **out of**:

- ☐ She **got out of** the car and **went into** a shop.

We usually say '**get on/off** a bus / a train / a plane' (*not usually* into/out of):

- ☐ She **got on the bus** and I never saw her again.