

PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

1) AT

- We use **at** for a **point**: at the window - at the entrance - at the door - at the end of the street - at the station - at the top
Example: Bill is waiting for you at the bus stop.
- We say that someone is at an **event**: at a party - at a pop concert - at a conference - at a meeting
Example: Tom is at a party.
- We say **at** with buildings when we say **where the event** (film, concert,...) **takes place**:
Example: Where were you yesterday? We were at the cinema.
- We say **at someone's house**:
Example: We were at Bill's house last Thursday.
- We say **at a place which is a part of our journey**:
Example: We stopped at a very nice village.

Note these expressions:

at home - at work - at school - at university - at college - at the station - at an airport - at the seaside - at sea (on a voyage) - at reception - at the corner of a street - at the back / front of a building / cinema / group of people, etc. - arrive at with other places or events

2) ON

- We use **on** for a **surface**: on the wall - on the ceiling - on the floor - on a page - on a cover
Example: Have you seen the notice on the notice board?
- We use **on** with **small islands**:
Example: She spent her holiday on a small island.
- We say that a place is **on the coast/on a river/on a road**:
Example: Portsmouth is on the south coast of England.

Note these expressions:

on a farm - on the left - on the right - on the ground floor - on the first, second,... floor - on the way - on the chair (sit) - on the radio - on television - on a horse - on the corner of a street - on the back / front of a letter / piece of paper etc.

3) IN

- We use **in** for an **enclosed space**: in the garden - in the house - in London - in the water - in her bag - in a row - in a town
Examples: There is nobody in the room. She lives in a small village.
- We say **in** when we talk about **a building itself**.
Example: The rooms in Tom's house are small.
- We usually say **in** with **towns and villages**:
Example: His parents live in York.

Note these expressions:

in the newspaper - in bed - in hospital - in prison - in the street - in the sky - in an armchair (sit) - in a photograph - in a picture - in a mirror - in the corner of a room - in the back / front of a car - arrive in a country or town

4) TO – INTO – BY

- We say **go / come / travel / fly / walk / return / drive / have been etc. to a place or event**:
Examples: Last year we flew to London. We went to work at seven.
- We say **go into / come into etc. = enter** a room / building etc.:
Example: He opened the door and went into the room.
- We say **by** to say **how we travel**:
Example: We went to Paris by plane. I usually go to work by bike / by car / by underground / by bus

BUT:

- we say **on foot**
- we cannot use **by** if you say **my car / the train / a taxi**
- Then use **in** for taxis and cars.
- Then use **on** for bike / public transport.

PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE 1

Fill in at, on or in.

1. The headquarters of the United Nations is _____ New York.
2. In the most countries, people drive _____ the right.
3. I usually buy a newspaper _____ my way to work.
4. Last year we had a lovely skiing holiday _____ the Swiss Alps.
5. San Francisco is _____ the west coast of the United States.
6. She spends most of the day sitting _____ the window.
7. The report about the accident was _____ the front page of the newspaper.
8. In the theatre we had seats _____ the front row.
9. I saw Ken _____ Dave's wedding.
10. It's dangerous to play football _____ the streets.
11. I'll meet you at the corner of the street _____ 10.
12. We got stuck in a traffic jam _____ the way to the airport.
13. Look at the horses _____ that field.
14. _____ the end of the street is a path to our house.
15. Do you want sugar _____ your coffee?
16. The exhibition _____ the art gallery finished last Sunday.
17. She studied _____ Paris for two weeks.
18. I saw Bill this morning. He was _____ a bus which passed me.
19. Linda is a student _____ Cambridge University.
20. Turn left _____ the traffic lights.
