Unit 126

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

TO →

- 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.

INTO →

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.

Been to → Units 7–8 In/at/on (position) → Units 123–125 At home → Unit 125A
Into and in → Unit 138A

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

126.1 **Put in to/at/in/into where necessary. If no preposition is necessary, leave the space empty.**

1 Three people were taken ...to... hospital after the accident.
2 I met Kate on my way ...–... home. *(no preposition)*
3 We left our luggage ..... the station and went to find something to eat.
4 Shall we take a taxi ..... the station or shall we walk?
5 I have to go ..... the bank today. What time does it open?
6 The Amazon flows ..... the Atlantic Ocean.
7 'Do you have your camera with you?' 'No, I left it ..... the car.'
8 Have you ever been ..... China?
9 I had lost my key, but I managed to climb ..... the house through a window.
10 We got stuck in a traffic jam on our way ..... the airport.
11 We had lunch ..... the airport while we were waiting for our plane.
12 Welcome ..... the hotel. We hope you enjoy your stay here.
13 We drove along the main road for about a kilometre and then turned ..... a narrow side street.
14 Did you enjoy your visit ..... the museum?
15 I'm tired. As soon as I get ..... home, I'm going ..... bed.
16 Marcel is French. He has just returned ..... France after two years ..... Brazil.
17 Carl was born ..... Chicago, but his family moved ..... New York when he was three. He still lives ..... New York.

126.2 **Have you been to these places? If so, how many times? Choose three of the places and write a sentence using been to.**

Athens	**Australia**	**Hong Kong**	**Mexico**	**Paris**
Rome	**Singapore**	**Sweden**	**Tokyo**	**the United States**

1 *(example answers)* ...I've never been to Australia. / I've been to Mexico once.
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....

126.3 **Put in to/at/in where necessary. If no preposition is necessary, leave the space empty.**

1 What time does this train get ...to... London?
2 We arrived ..... Barcelona a few days ago.
3 What time did you get ..... home last night?
4 What time do you usually arrive ..... work in the morning?
5 When we got ..... the cinema, there was a long queue outside.
6 I arrived ..... home feeling very tired.

126.4 **Write sentences using got + into / out of / on / off.**

1 You were walking home. A friend passed you in her car. She saw you, stopped and offered you a lift. She opened the door. What did you do? ...I got into the car.
2 You were waiting for the bus. At last your bus came. The doors opened. What did you do then? I ..... the bus.
3 You drove home in your car. You stopped outside your house and parked the car. What did you do then? .....
4 You were travelling by train to Manchester. When the train got to Manchester, what did you do? .....
5 You needed a taxi. After a few minutes a taxi stopped for you. You opened the door. What did you do then? .....
6 You were travelling by air. At the end of your flight, your plane landed at the airport and stopped. The doors were opened, you took your bag and stood up. What did you do then? .....

→ Additional exercise 34 (page 322)

LIVEWORKSHEETS