GRAMMAR FOCUS

Prepositions of place – 'in', 'on', 'at'

Do you know how to use **in**, **on** and **at** to *talk about location*? Test what you know with interactive exercises and read the explanation to help you.

Look at these examples to see how we use these prepositions.

*Please put the book **on the shelf**.*

*They live **in Helsinki**.*

*You should keep milk **in the fridge**.*

*Mette is studying **at the library**.*

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Grammar test 1

1 Choose the correct preposition.

a. On Friday mornings, I'm usually _____ school.

at

in

b. Please put the flowers _____ the table.

in

on

c. I'll meet you _____ the bus stop.

at

in

d. They're going to meet _____ the café.

at

on

e. Her flat is _____ the sixth floor.

at

on

f. Buckingham Palace is _____ London.

at

in

g. Their house is _____ the James River.

at

on

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h. Karim isn't home now. He's _____ church.

at

on

Read the explanation to learn more.

Grammar explanation

We can use the prepositions **in**, **on** and **at** to say where things are. They go before nouns.

*I am **in** the kitchen.*

*My dog likes sleeping **on** the sofa.*

*The children eat lunch **at** school.*

in

We use **in** to talk about a place that is **inside a bigger space**, such as a box, a house, a city or a country.

*The clothes are **in** the wardrobe.*

*The children are playing **in** the park.*

*There's a bookshop **in** the shopping centre.*

*My grandmother was born **in** Sweden.*

We also use **in** with other physical locations such as:

in the world

in water / the sea / a river / a lake / a pool

in the mountains / the countryside / a valley / the forest

in a car / a taxi

on

We use **on** to talk about location **on a surface**.

*The books are **on** the desk.*

*We live **on** the fifth floor.*

*There are pictures **on** the wall.*

*She likes to sit **on** the floor.*

We also use on for some types of public transport.

*He's **on** the bus now.*

*You can't make phone calls **on** a plane.*

*They go to school **on** the train.*

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We also use **on** for **lines** (including rivers, borders, streets, etc.) and islands.

*London is **on** the River Thames.*

*The Pyrenees are **on** the border of Spain and France.*

*There's a market **on** James Street.*

*I'd love to live **on** the Isle of Wight.*

at

We use **at** in many common phrases, especially when we are talking about a place for a specific activity.

*I'm **at** work.*

*She's working **at** home today.*

*The children are **at** school.*

*See you **at** the train station!*

*They're **at** the supermarket.*

*I met him **at** a party.*

We also use **at** for **addresses** or **exact positions**.

*I live **at** 15 Craig Street.*

*She's sitting **at** a desk.*

*He's waiting **at** the entrance.*

*Please sit **at** the back of the room.*

Do this exercise to test your grammar again.

Grammar test 2

2 Choose the correct preposition.

a. They have lots of pictures _____ their fridge.

in

on

b. We put the old books _____ a box.

at

in

c. I just called him _____ work, and he wasn't there.

at

on

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d. I don't like to study _____ home. It's too noisy.

at

in

e. Last summer we stayed in a cabin _____ a lake.

in

on

f. My office is _____ the 20th floor, so I take the lift.

in

on

g. I like to listen to music when I'm _____ the gym.

at

on

h. There are important Roman ruins _____ Jordan.

at

in

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