

To/at/in/into

A

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

go to China
go back to Italy
return to London
welcome somebody **to** a place

go to bed
go to the bank
go to a concert

come to my house
be taken to hospital
be sent to prison
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.

Exercises

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

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

- (example answers) I've never been to Australia. / I've been to Mexico once.
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126.3 Put in **to/at/in** where necessary. If no preposition is necessary, leave the space empty.

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

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

- 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.
- You were waiting for the bus. At last your bus came. The doors opened. What did you do then? I got on the bus.
- You drove home in your car. You stopped outside your house and parked the car. What did you do then?
- You were travelling by train to Manchester. When the train got to Manchester, what did you do?
- You needed a taxi. After a few minutes a taxi stopped for you. You opened the door. What did you do then?
- 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?