

Prepositions of PLACE

IN, ON, AT

Generally we use these prepositions:

- **AT** – for a point
- **ON** – for an enclosed space
- **IN** – for a surface

| AT | IN | ON |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| POINT | ENCLOSED SPACE | SURFACE |
| At the corner | In the garden | On the wall |
| At the bus stop | In London | On the ceiling |
| At the door | In France | On the door |
| At the top of the page | In a box | On the cover |
| At the end of the road | In my pocket | On the floor |
| At the entrance | In my wallet | On the carpet |
| At the crossroads | In a building | On the menu |
| At the front desk | In a car | On a page |

- We use **at** to show a specific place or position.

For example:

Someone is **at** the door.

They are waiting **at** the bus stop.

I used to live **at** 51 Portland Street.

- We use **on** to show position on a horizontal or vertical surface.

For example:

The cat sat **on** the mat.

The satellite dish is **on** the roof.

- We also use **on** to show position on streets, roads, etc.

For example:

I used to live **on** Portland Street.

- We use **in** to show that something is enclosed or surrounded.

For example:

The dog is **in** the garden.

She is **in** a taxi.

Put it **in** the box.

- We also use **in** to show position within land-areas (towns, counties, states, countries, and continents).

For example:

I used to live **in** Nottingham.

IMPORTANT NOTES

In / at / on the corner

We say 'in the corner of a room', but 'at the corner (or 'on the corner') of a street'

In / at / on the front

- *We say 'in the front / in the back' of a car*
- *We say 'at the front / at the back' of buildings / groups of people*
- *We say 'on the front / on the back' of a piece of paper*

YOUR TURN ☺

Exercise 1.

- Jane is waiting for you the bus stop.
- The shop is the end of the street.
- My plane stoppedDubai and Hanoi and arrivedBangkok two hours late.
- When will you arrivethe office?
- Do you workan office?
- I have a meetingNew York.
- Do you liveJapan?
- Jupiter isthe Solar System.
- The author's name isthe cover of the book.
- There are no pricesthis menu.
- You are standingmy foot.
- There was a "no smoking" signthe wall.
- I livethe 7th floor21 Oxford StreetLondon.

Results:

- Jane is waiting for you **at** the bus stop.
- The shop is **at** the end of the street.
- My plane stopped **at** Dubai and Hanoi and arrived **in** Bangkok two hours late.
- When will you arrive **at** the office?
- Do you work **in** an office?

- I have a meeting **in** New York.
- Do you live **in** Japan?
- Jupiter is **in** the Solar System.
- The author's name is **on** the cover of the book.
- There are no prices **on** this menu.
- You are standing **on** my foot.
- There was a "no smoking" sign **on** the wall.
- I live **on** the 7th floor **at** 21 Oxford Street **in** London.

15. Do you want sugar **in** your coffee?

Exercise 2.

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. Write the name and address.....the front page of the envelope.
10. It's dangerous to play football.....the streets.
11. I'll meet you.....the corner of the street at 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?

Results:

1. The headquarters of the United Nations is **in** New York.
2. In the most countries people drive **on** the right.
3. I usually buy a newspaper **on** my way to work.
4. Last year we had a lovely skiing holiday **in** the Swiss Alps.
5. San Francisco is **on** the west coast of the United States.
6. She spends most of the day sitting **at** the window.
7. The report about the accident was **on** the front page of the newspaper.
8. In the theatre we had seats **in** the front row.
9. Write the name and address **on** the front page of the envelope.
10. It's dangerous to play football **in** the streets.
11. I'll meet you **at** the corner of the street at 10.
12. We got stuck in a traffic jam **on** the way to the airport.
13. Look at the horses **in** that field.
14. **at** the end of the street is a path to our house.