

- ✚ We use **AT** to talk about a place we think of as a point rather than an area, and about an event where there is a group of people: *I arrived at the conference in Italy.*
- ✚ We use **ON** to talk about a position touching a flat surface, or on something we think of as a line such as a road or river: *Is that a spider on the ceiling.*

Also study how **at**, **in**, and **on** are used in these sentences:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My dream is to play at Wembley Stadium. • Didn't I see you in/at the pool yesterday? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seen as a point - either seen as within the pool itself, or as a building which is a point in town
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He lives in Perth. • We stopped in/at Milan, Florence and Pisa on our way to Rome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - within the city - we use at when we see the cities as points on a journey, and in when we see them as enclosed areas where we stayed for some time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They were a great success in/at Edinburgh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we can use at when we use a place name instead of an institution or event - here, the Edinburgh Festival; in suggests the city
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He's in Los Angeles on business. • He's at Manchester studying Linguistics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - staying or living there - a student at Manchester University
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She works at Marks and Spencer. • She works in a shoe shop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name of a particular organisation - the kind of place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I stopped at the shop on the way home. • I was in the bank when in came Sue. (Notice we say: 'I work on a farm', but I work in a factory.') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we use at to talk about buildings such as the dentist's, the supermarket, the bank, school, etc.; we use in to emphasise that we mean <i>inside</i> the building
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I read the paper in the taxi on the way. • I'll probably go on the bus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for travel using taxis and cars - for travel using bus, coach, plane, or train; but we use in if we want to emphasise <i>inside</i> the bus, etc.

Ex.1 Complete these sentences with **at**, **on**, or **in** and the most likely word or phrase.
 the pitch parties this booklet the table the main road a dinner
 this country his pocket the top end your lawn the Opera House
 Tunisia

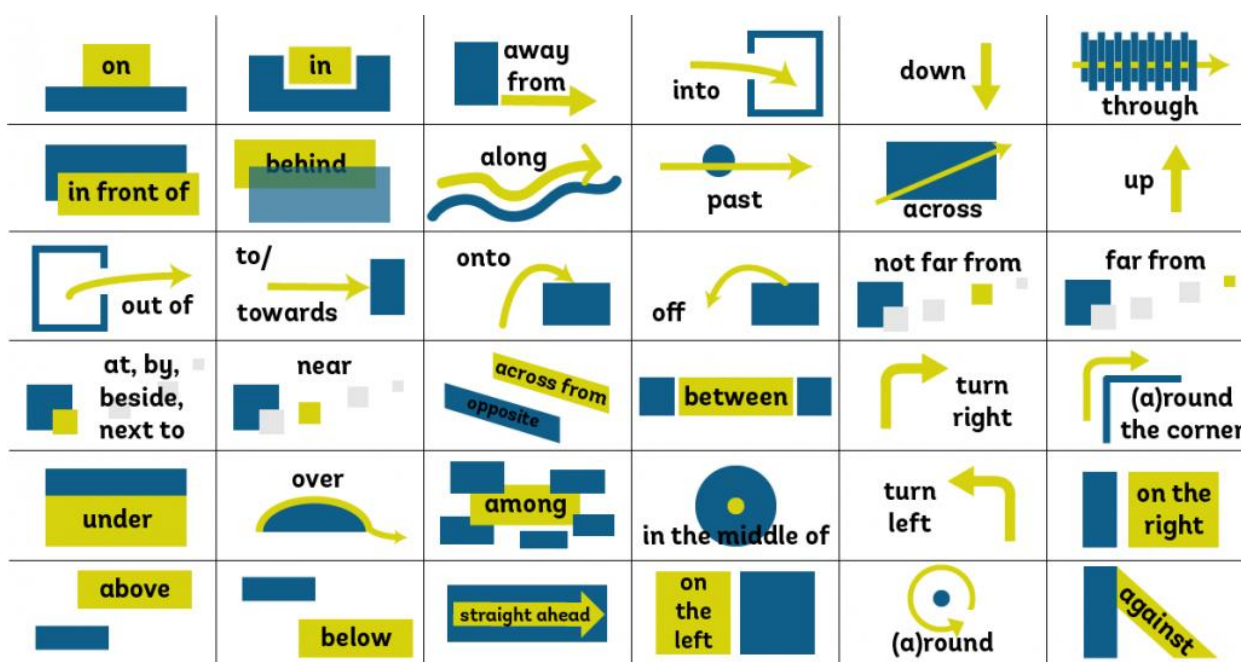
- 1 I bumped into Tim _____ I went to the other evening.
- 2 The film was shot mainly _____ in North Africa.
- 3 He was undoubtedly the best player _____ in the first half.
- 4 Although he has been singing for ages, it will be the first time he has appeared _____.
- 5 They live _____, so there's a lot of traffic going past.
- 6 It will be the biggest event of its kind ever held _____.
- 7 I know that people like to dress up _____, but that is ridiculous.
- 8 Bill lived _____ of my street.
- 9 The information _____ is out of date.
- 10 Do you know that there's a rabbit _____, and it's eating your flowers?
- 11 He put his hand _____ and took out some coins.
- 12 Who's moved my briefcase? I left it _____.

Now practice your skills and complete the exercises on other prepositions.

Ex.2 Put **at**, **in**, **on** or - if no preposition is needed.

- 1 A: 'What are you doing _____ Easter?'
 B: 'We haven't decided yet.'

- 2 It's traditional here to celebrate _____ the first day of spring.
- 3 A woman sitting next to me _____ dinner spilt her drink all over me.
- 4 Chan took power in a military coup _____ the beginning of the decade.
- 5 She held the world record for seven years _____ the 1970s.
- 6 _____ his arrival in Thailand, Mr Surat fell ill and spent the next five weeks in hospital.
- 7 I was woken up _____ the middle of the night by a helicopter going overhead.
- 8 I had to get up _____ the night to close the window.
- 9 We meet _____ every Saturday afternoon to go shopping.
- 10 He had to leave _____ a quarter to six this morning to catch the train.
- 11 I'm afraid she's left now, but you'll be able to see her _____ the day after tomorrow.
- 12 Don't worry, the exam will be over _____ a couple of hours.
- 13 These pink roses have a beautiful smell which becomes stronger _____ the evening.
- 14 The programme was shown on television _____ one afternoon last week.
- 15 He painted the whole house _____ only three days.



Ex.3 Underline the correct answer.

- 1 The boy walked into the room *between/among* his mother and father.
- 2 During that period, the Atlantic Ocean was a narrow lake *between/among* what is now Africa and North America.
- 3 There was no-one from Japan *between/among* the many tourists on the coach.
- 4 British makes were noticeably absent *between/among* the cars in the car park.
- 5 The male penguin incubates the egg *between/among* its feet.
- 6 I had a pain *between/among* my eyes.
- 7 She looked *between/among* all the coats on the rack until she found her own.
- 8 I took my seat *between/among* Toni and Ingrid.

Ex.4 Underline the correct word(s). In some sentences, both words are possible.

- 1 I wasn't late once *during/in* my first year at school.
- 2 She got very badly sunburnt *during/over* her holiday in Spain.
- 3 You mustn't look directly at the sun *during/in* the eclipse.
- 4 *During/Over* the next two days I made several trips to the library.

- 5 The castle was built *during/over* the fourteenth century.
- 6 Mrs Peterson made a number of major changes *during/in* her time as principal of the school.
- 7 They sat and rested *during/for* a while and then continued on their way.
- 8 Dr Brown won't be available *during/over* the coming months.
- 9 Because she had to go back to work, she could only stay *during/for* two weeks.
- 10 She is going to need a lot of support *during/over* the next few months.

Ex.5 Self-check.

- 1 She lives Perth. She owns a house the Swan River.
A at...on B at...in C in...at D in...on
- 2 He suddenly saw Sue the room. He pushed his way the crowd of people to get to her.
A across...through B over...through C across...across
D over...along
- 3 I first met Steve on a beach Adelaide. I later found out that he had been a carpenter and a dustman, other things.
A by...among B near...between C by...between D near among
- 4 'It's Ann's birthday some time the middle of May, I think.' 'Yes, it's her birthday the 21st.'
A at...on B in...on C in...at D at...in
- 5 About ten of us were taken ill a party we were at in York. I felt ill a couple of days, but was fine after that.
A for...during B for...for C during...during D during...for
- 6 cricket, I enjoy watching football and basketball.
A Apart from B Except C Except for D Besides
- 7 I told him that he couldn't hope to catch a big fish a small rod like that, but he insisted trying.
A with...on B by...about C with...about D by...on
- 8 'What do you think my car? I've just bought it.' 'It's really good. Actually, I'm thinking my motorbike and getting a car, too.'
A about...to sell B about...about selling C of...to sell
D of...of selling
9. When did you last hear Don?' 'He phoned me just this morning. He's coming to Bristol next week, so we agreed a time and place to meet.'
A from...on B about...on C from...with D of...to
- 10 'John has looked tired recently, and I've started to wonder his health.' 'You're right. And he doesn't seem to care the effect smoking has on him.'
A at...for B about...for C about...about D at...about
- 11 She tried to
A talk me the plan out of B talk out of me the plan
C talk me out of the plan D talk out me of the plan