

Prepositions

What do prepositions do?



- **Tell Location:** under, above, on, behind
- **Tell Direction:** to, toward, around
- **Introduce a Time:** in, on, at
- **Tell Purpose:** for, about, with
- **Almost always followed by a noun or a pronoun:**

This present is for you.

The book is about George Washington.

Their house is around the corner.

Some common prepositions:



- About, above, across (from), against, along, among, around, at
- Behind, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, by
- Down, during, except, for, from, in, inside, into
- Near, of, off, on, onto, outside, over, past
- Through, to, toward, under, up, with, without

In, On, At ... Three Little Words... Three Big Headaches

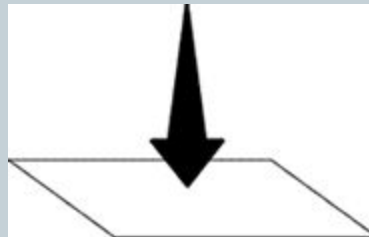


- In, on, at + location

In (inside)



On (on the surface, touching)



At (physically present, but not necessarily inside)



What is correct? In, on, or at?



- _____ room 104
- _____ the first floor
- _____ MiraCosta College
- _____ Mission Avenue
- _____ 1831 Mission Avenue
- _____ Oceanside
- _____ California
- _____ the United States
- _____ North America
- _____ planet Earth
- _____ the world
- _____ work
- _____ church
- _____ school
- _____ home

General rules for In, On, At + location



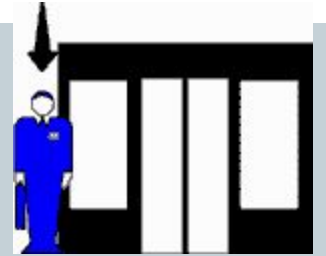
In +

- A room
- A city
- A state
- A country
- A continent



On +

- Floor
- Street



At +

- Buildings
- Events
- Address
- Familiar places (home, school, work)

In, On, At + Time

What is correct? In, on, or at?



- _____ 6 p.m
- _____ Friday
- _____ January
- _____ Friday, Jan. 13
- _____ the morning
- _____ night
- _____ the evening
- _____ midnight
- _____ noon
- _____ 2006
- _____ a few minutes
- _____ two days
- _____ the 21st Century
- _____ the summer
- _____ the weekend

General rules for In, On, At + location

In + length of time

- Month
- Year
- Season
- Century

On + a more specific time

- Day
- Date

At + most specific point in time

- Clock time

Tricky ones...



What is the correct preposition?

- I had a funny dream (with, about) you last night.
- The book was written (for, by) a famous author.
- I like to talk (in, on) the phone.
- I am (in bed, on the bed).
- He is mad (at, about) his girlfriend.
- She is (in, at) the hospital.
- I am (in, at) school.
- Please throw that book (at, to) me.

A word about phrasal verbs



- **A phrasal verb is a verb + a preposition**
- **Many are idiomatic expressions**
- ***Some examples:***

I put on my shoes. =

They put off studying. =

We put up with her annoying behavior. =

She took off early. =

He got stood up by his blind date. =

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