

PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE: AT / IN / ON

In



in a room
in a building
in a box



in a garden
in a town/country
in the city centre



in a pool
in the sea
in a river

At



at the bus stop
at the door
at the window

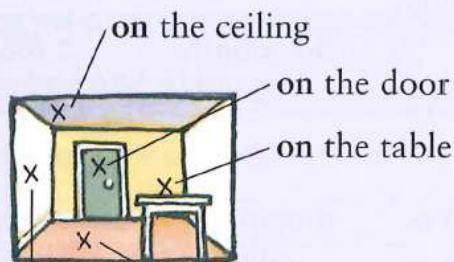


at the roundabout



at reception

On



on the ceiling
on the door
on the table
on the wall
on the floor



on her nose



on a page



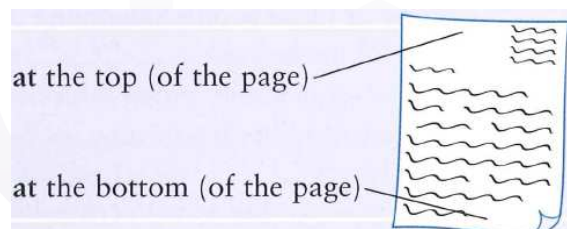
on an island

We say that somebody / something is:

in a line / in a row / in a queue in bed in the country / in the countryside
in the sky / in the world in a photograph in a picture in an office
in a book / in a (news)paper / in a magazine / in a letter

We use 'ON' in the following expressions:

on the left / on the right on the left-hand side / on the right-hand side
on the ground floor / on the first floor / on the second floor ...
on a map / on a menu / on a list on a farm / on the beach on the / my way



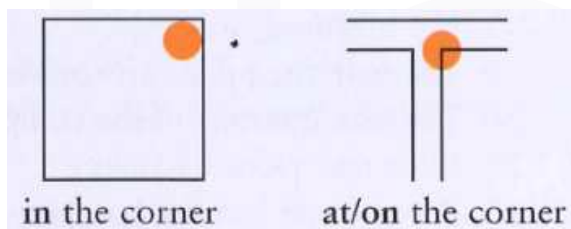
at the top (of the page)

at the bottom (of the page)



at the back

at the front



in the corner

at/on the corner

We say that somebody is **in** hospital / **in** prison / **in** jail:

Ann is **in** hospital because she needs surgery.

We say that somebody is **at** home / **at** work / **at** school / **at** university / **at** college:

Mary is not **at** home. She's **at** work.

I am studying engineering **at** university.

We use both 'IN' and 'AT' for **buildings**. We often use them without much difference in meaning, but we use 'AT' to say **when an event takes place**, for example a concert, a film, a party, a meeting

We went to a concert **at** the Royal Festival Hall.

We are celebrating my birthday **at** the pub I told you about.

We say **at** the station / **at** the airport:

Don't wait for me **at** the airport. I will take a taxi.

We say **at** somebody's house:

I already had dinner **at** Mike's.

We also say **at** the doctor's, **at** the hairdresser's, **at** the supermarket:

I bought my shampoo **at** the supermarket.

We use 'IN' when we are talking about the **building itself**. For example:

We had dinner **at** the hotel.

All the rooms **in** the hotel have air conditioning. (*not at the hotel*)

We normally use 'IN' with cities, towns, villages...:

I am visiting my family **in** Madrid.

We usually say **on** a bus / **on** a train / **on** a plane / **on** a ship **BUT in** a car / **in** a taxi:

The bus was very full. There were too many people **on** it.

Michael arrived **in** his car.



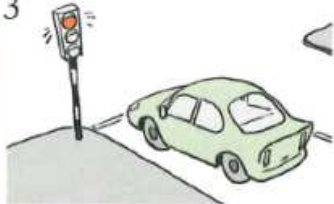





We say **on** a bike / **on** a motorbike / **on** a horse:

Jane overtook me **on** her bike.

NOW GO TO THE NEXT PAGE AND COMPLETE THE PRACTICE EXERCISE

PRACTICE EXERCISES: PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

Complete the following sentences with AT , IN or ON

<p>1</p>  <p>(bottle)</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>(arm)</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>(traffic lights)</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>(door)</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>(wall)</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>(Paris)</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>(gate)</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>(beach)</p>

1. Where is the label? _____ the bottle.

2. Where is the fly? _____ the arm.

3. Where is the car? _____ the traffic lights.

4. Where is the notice? _____ the door.

Where is the key? _____ the door.

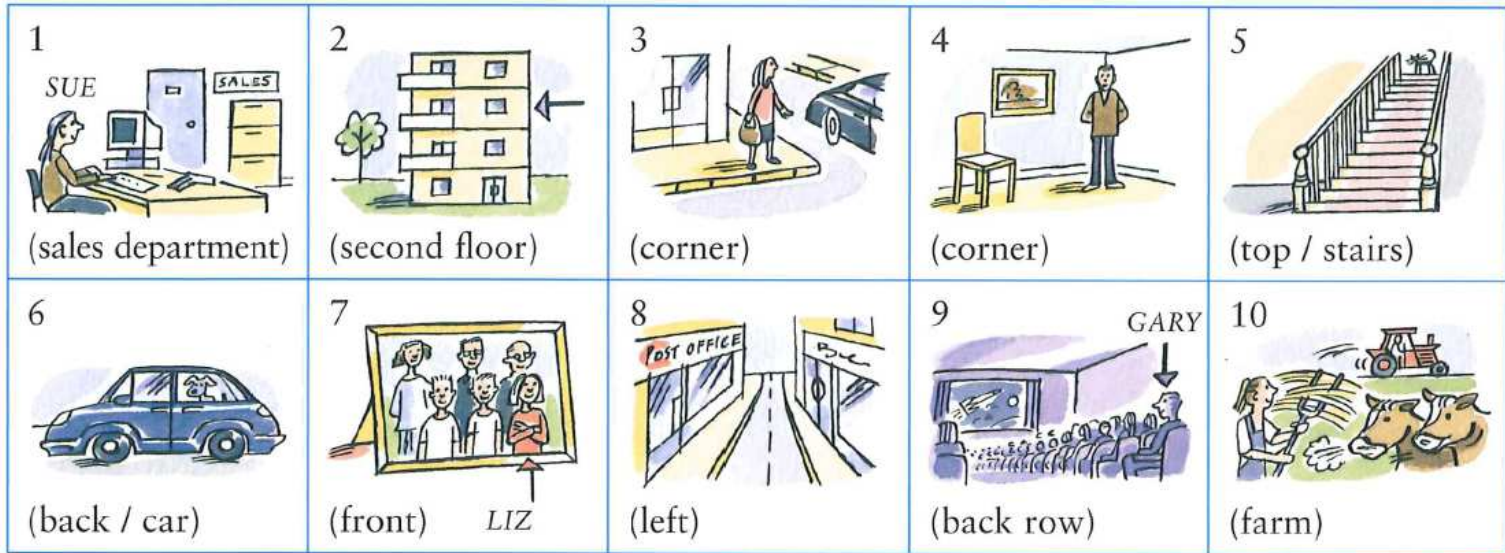
5. Where are the selves? _____ the wall.

6. Where's the Eiffel Tower? _____ Paris.

7. Where's the man standing? _____ the gate.

Where's the bird? _____ the gate.

8. Where are the children? _____ the beach.



1. Where does Sue work? _____ the sales department.

2. Where's Sue's flat? _____ the second floor.

3. Where's the woman standing? _____ the corner.

4. Where's the man standing? _____ the corner.

5. Where's the cat? _____ the top of the stairs.

6. Where's the dog? _____ the back of the car.

7. Where's Liz? _____ the front.

8. Where's the Post Office? _____ the left.

9. Where is Gary sitting? _____ the back row.

10. Where does Kate work? _____ a farm.



1. You can hire a car _____ the airport.
2. Dave is _____ a train.
3. Karen is _____ a conference.
4. Martin is _____ hospital.
5. Judy is _____ the hairdresser's.
6. I saw Gary _____ his bike.
7. We spent a few days _____ New York.
8. We went to a show _____ the Savoy Theatre.

YOU CAN PRINT THIS PAGE TO DO THE EXERCISE. THE ANSWERS WILL BE GIVEN TOMORROW.