

In, Inside, Into, Within

Do you know when to use in, inside, into, and within? These prepositions can be tricky, but today I'll help you understand the difference clearly!

IN VS. INSIDE

In and **inside** are the same in many cases.
You can say:

- We are **in** the house.
= We are **inside** the house.
- The clothes are **in** the closet.
= The clothes are **inside** the closet.



Your turn: Name some items you have in your bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, etc.
– write full sentences using “in” or “inside”:

One small difference is that the word **inside** implies that the thing is physically enclosed – it is in a container (a box, a vehicle, a building with walls, etc.)

This means that when talking about location, time, being included, or other situations where you are *not* physically surrounded, you should use **in**, not inside:

- I live **in** Australia.
- My birthday is **in** July.
- He plays guitar **in** a band.

Your turn: Describe some interesting things to do in your city or country – write full sentences using “in”:

INTO

The word into implies movement or transformation:

- She jumped **into** the swimming pool.
- We went **into** the house.
- The car crashed **into** a telephone pole.
- The caterpillar turned **into** a butterfly.



With the verbs put, throw, drop, and fall, you can use either **into** or **in**:

- He **put** the card **into/in** his pocket.
- I **threw** the paper cup **into/in** the trash.
- She lost her balance and **fell into/in** the river.

Your turn: What was the last building you went into? What was the last thing you put into something else? Write full sentences:

WITHIN

The word **within** means “inside the limits” – and in this case the limits are non-physical. They can be limits of time or distance, or an area of understanding:

- The results will be delivered **within** fourteen days.
- Most car accidents occur **within** five miles of home.

We also have some expressions like:

- **within earshot** = at a distance where you are able to hear something (such as a conversation)
- **within reason** = to the degree that good judgment would allow
- **within reach / within one’s grasp** = able to be taken with your hand, or able to be accomplished

Finally, you can use **within** to describe a person’s inner feelings (in this case, you can also use “inside”):

- He tried to hide the anger burning **within/inside** him.

Your turn: What’s something you want/need to do within the next month? What is a goal you feel is within reach? What is one strong feeling you have within your heart? Write full sentences using “within”:

Now you know when to use these 4 prepositions!

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