



FOR
QUICK-WITTED
LEARNERS

HANDBOOK

GRAMMAR IS ALL YOU NEED

Complicated English Grammar
Explained Simply






6 PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE: AT, ON OR SOMETHING MORE FUN?

Now it's time to move on to the next category of prepositions: prepositions of place. Prepositions of time indicate WHEN an action happens, while prepositions of place indicate WHERE it happens.

The most common prepositions of place are... the same AT, IN and ON.

AT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">to be inside a particular institution for a particular reason: <i>at the hospital, at school</i>to be at an event: <i>at a conference, at the party</i>to be near something: <i>she waited for me at the door.</i>	<p>What's the difference between AT and IN? The preposition AT is used to describe the fact of a person or thing being at a geographical location, while IN indicates that the person or thing is actually inside the structure or place.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p><i>I was in the university but then I went out for a smoke.</i></p> <p><i>I was at university today and had 3 classes.</i></p>
IN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">to be inside a closed space, whether abstract or specific: <i>in the box, in the car, in the film</i>compass directions: <i>in the North, in the South</i>cities and countries: <i>in New York, in Russia</i>	 <p>LinguaHack: try adding "building" to the situation you are describing, if it sounds right and doesn't make the sentence redundant, it means you should use IN.</p>
ON	<ul style="list-style-type: none">to be located on a surface: <i>lying on the table, sitting on the sofa</i>to be located directly next to a river: <i>on the coast, on the shore, on the beach</i>to be located on a road: <i>on my way, on this path, on the road</i>to be located inside a vehicle, public transport: <i>on the train, on the bus</i>floors: <i>on the 5th floor</i>directions: <i>on the left/right</i>TV, radio: <i>on the TV, on the radio</i>	

There are many other prepositions of place.

IMPORTANT! All prepositions could be used with either specific or abstract spaces. Very often prepositions of place and time are used in metaphorical transfers and idiomatic expressions. For example:

*to be **under** pressure = to experience stress*
*to run away **from** one's problems = to avoid problems*
*to be **under** control = to be controlled*
*to be **on** edge = about to lose control, acting crazy*



ABOVE	at a higher level or layer: <i>11 km above sea level</i> <i>the clouds above us</i>
BELOW	at a lower level or layer: <i>10 degrees below zero</i> <i>He's so much below average</i>
UNDER	a position below or beneath something: <i>To be under pressure»</i> <i>The kitten is hiding under the car</i>
ACROSS	from one side to the other of something: <i>The supermarket is just across the street</i>
TO	expressing motion in the direction of a particular location: <i>I go to school every day</i>
TOWARDS	expressing motion closer to someone/something: <i>I was going towards him slowly</i> in relation to; often used with feelings, emotions: <i>I have no feelings towards him</i>
FROM	to show the place where someone or something starts: <i>I came from Russia</i>
INTO ONTO	to move INSIDE of something (into), to a position ON something (onto): <i>The dog ran into the house and jumped onto the sofa</i>
THROUGH	from one end or side of something to the other: <i>I've been going through a lot of stress recently</i> <i>He was crawling through the jungle</i>
BY NEXT TO BESIDE	to be nearest in space or position: <i>The teacher is standing by/next to/at his desk</i>
OVER	to be above or higher than something else: <i>She wore a jacket over a light blouse</i> <i>We drove over the empty bridge</i>



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6 PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE: AT, ON OR SOMETHING MORE FUN?



Exercise 1. Look at the picture of a room below and describe it using the correct prepositions.



There is a lot of fashionable furniture ____ the room. A table is standing ____ a big window ____ the right. ____ the table, there are several items, such as a laptop, a phone and a lamp. There are not many plants ____ the office, but one is standing ____ the shelf. Colorful paintings are hanging ____ the wall ____ the shelf. ____ the paintings we can see some abstract landscapes and figures. We can only guess what there is ____ the room, as we don't see that side of the office.

Exercise 2. Insert prepositions. Each preposition can only be used once.



THROUGH
UNDER
INTO
TO
NEXT TO
TOWARDS
FROM
ONTO
ABOVE
ON

My dog is a great pet and a real guard of the house, but _____ all, it's also my best friend. When I was about to get a bulldog, I was _____ the impression that they are not very affectionate dogs, but my mind has changed. He got to me _____ the shelter, where I saw him for the first time. I went _____ the shelter to adopt a smaller and fluffy dog for my girlfriend but came out with my big boy, who ran _____ me as soon as I went _____ the cage. It was love at first sight! Now, as I reflect on what we went _____ together, I understand how lucky I am. Even when he chews on my shoes and jumps _____ the sofa constantly, I wouldn't change anything at all. The calm moments when I'm all relaxed _____ a sofa and he's sitting _____ me are the most precious ones.

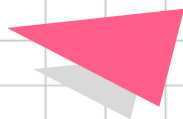
Exercise 3. Insert the correct preposition of place.



1. Mozart was born _____ Salzburg _____ 1756.
2. My dream is to be _____ Times Square _____ New Year's Eve.
3. Travelling _____ the West feels like magic. We left Moscow _____ 12:00 pm _____ 25th of October and arrived _____ Los Angeles _____ 2:00 pm _____ the same day.
4. — When did you hang that picture _____ the wall?
— Oh, I did it _____ yesterday. I think it looks nice next _____ the window.
5. Margot hated sitting _____ the desk _____ 8 hours straight and that's why she quit her job. She moved from the East coast to the West, _____ the whole country.
6. Mr Smith's office is _____ the 10th floor.
7. There is a cute artisan shop _____ this street but it is closed _____ the weekend.
8. There might be both heavy rain and snowfall _____ Russia _____ December.
9. How different do you think the life will be _____ the 22nd century?
10. I've been waiting for you _____ an hour _____ the train station. Where are you?
11. Parents are not allowed to wait for their kids _____ school. They should gather outside.
12. CVS, the nearest drug store, is _____ the end of the road _____ the left.
13. Don't believe everything you see _____ TV.
14. First, our train arrived _____ France and 4 hours later we were _____ Portugal.
15. I need to be _____ NYC _____ tomorrow morning. I have a meeting there _____ the 5th Avenue.
16. The choice of appetizers was wide but there were no desserts _____ the menu.
17. I can't hear you, I am _____ the bus.
18. There was a fire _____ our office building yesterday.
19. — Where are the kids?
— They are already _____ school.
20. Get _____ the car and let's get going!



KEYS



6 PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE: AT, ON OR SOMETHING MORE FUN?

Exercise 1

There is a lot of fashionable furniture **in** the room. A table is standing **at/by/beside/next to** a big window **on** the right. **On** the table, there are several items, such as a laptop, a phone and a lamp. There are not many plants **in** the office, but one is standing **at/by/beside/next to** the shelf. Colorful paintings are hanging **on** the wall **above** the shelf. **In** the paintings we can see some abstract landscapes and figures. We can only guess what there is **across** the room, as we don't see that side of the office.

Exercise 2

My dog is a great pet and a real guard of the house, but **above** all, it's also my best friend. When I was about to get a bulldog, I was **under** the impression that they are not very affectionate dogs, but my mind has changed. He got to me **from** the shelter, where I saw him for the first time. I went **to** the shelter to adopt a smaller and fluffy dog for my girlfriend but came out with my big boy, who ran **towards** me as soon as I went **into** the cage. It was love at first sight! Now, as I reflect on what we went **through** together, I understand how lucky I am. Even when he chews on my shoes and jumps **onto** the sofa constantly, I wouldn't change anything at all. The calm moments when I'm all relaxed **on** a sofa and he's sitting **next to** me are the most precious ones.

Exercise 3

1. Mozart was born **in** Salzburg **in** 1756.
2. My dream is to be **at** Times Square **on** New Year's Eve.
3. Travelling **to** the West feels like magic. We left Moscow **at** 12:00 pm **on** 25th of October and arrived **to** Los Angeles **at** 2:00 pm the same day.
4. — When did you hang that picture **on** the wall?
— Oh, I did it yesterday. I think it looks nice next **to** the window.
5. Margot hated sitting **behind** the desk **for** 8 hours straight and that's why she quit her job. She moved from the East coast to the West, **across** the whole country.
6. Mr Smith's office is **on** the 10th floor.
7. There is a cute artisan shop **on** this street but it is closed **at** the weekend.
8. There might be both heavy rain and snowfall **in** Russia **in** December.
9. How different do you think the life will be **in** the 22nd century?
10. I've been waiting for you **for** an hour **at** the train station. Where are you?
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18. There was a fire **in** our office building yesterday.
19. — Where are the kids?
— They are already **at** school.
20. Get **in** the car and let's get going!

Did you like the tasks?

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