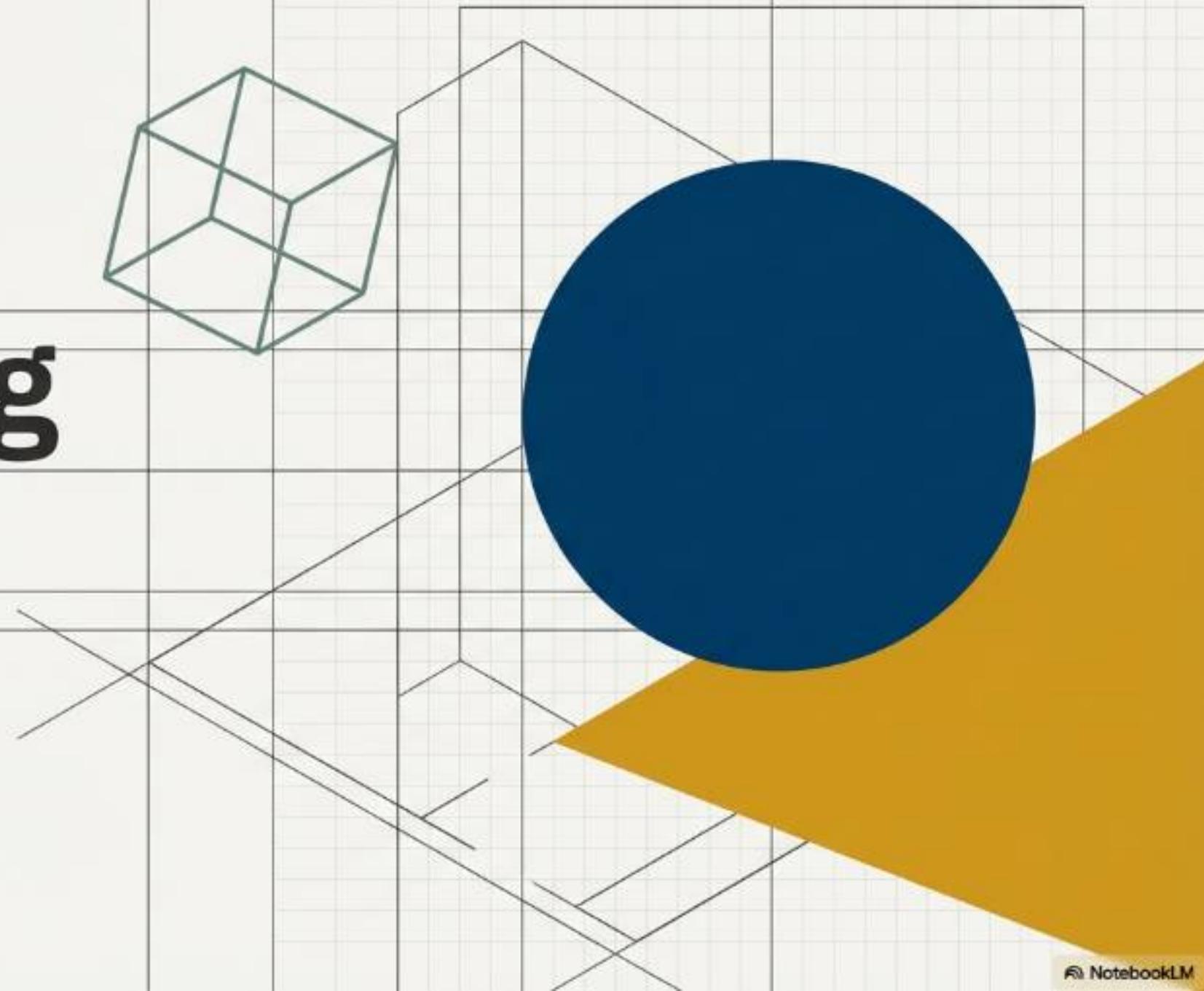


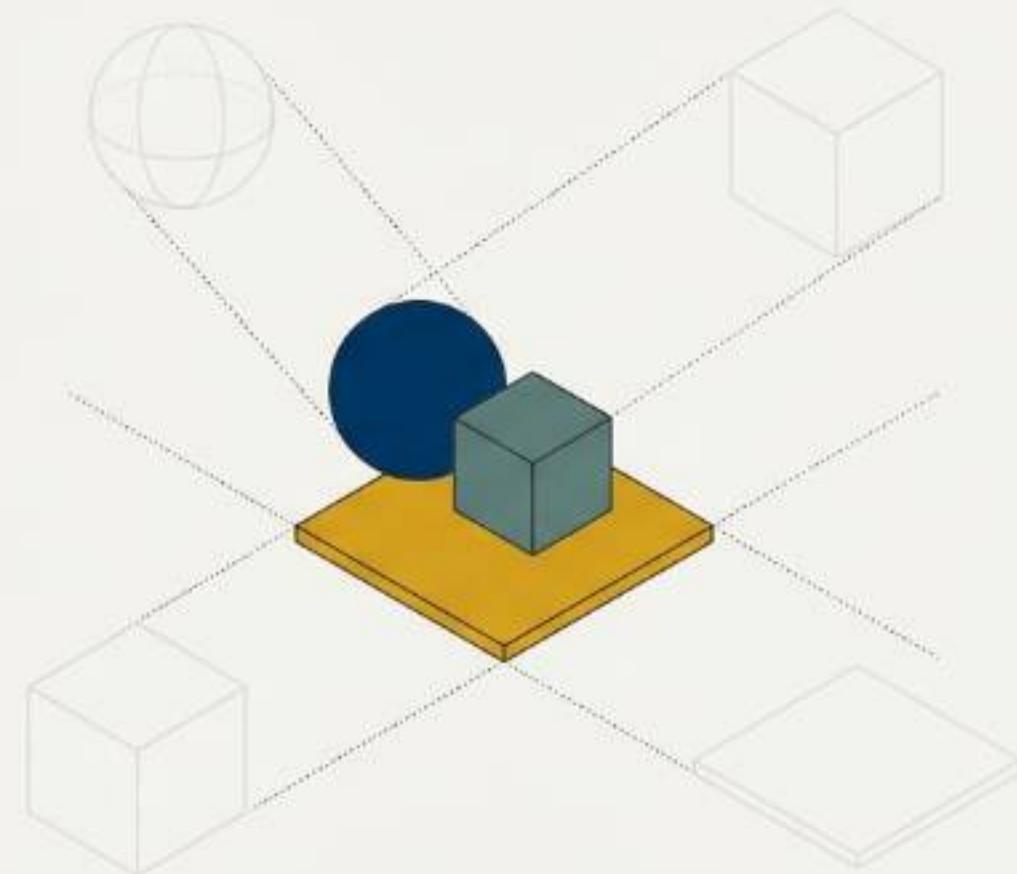
Mastering Space

A Visual Guide to
Prepositions of Place



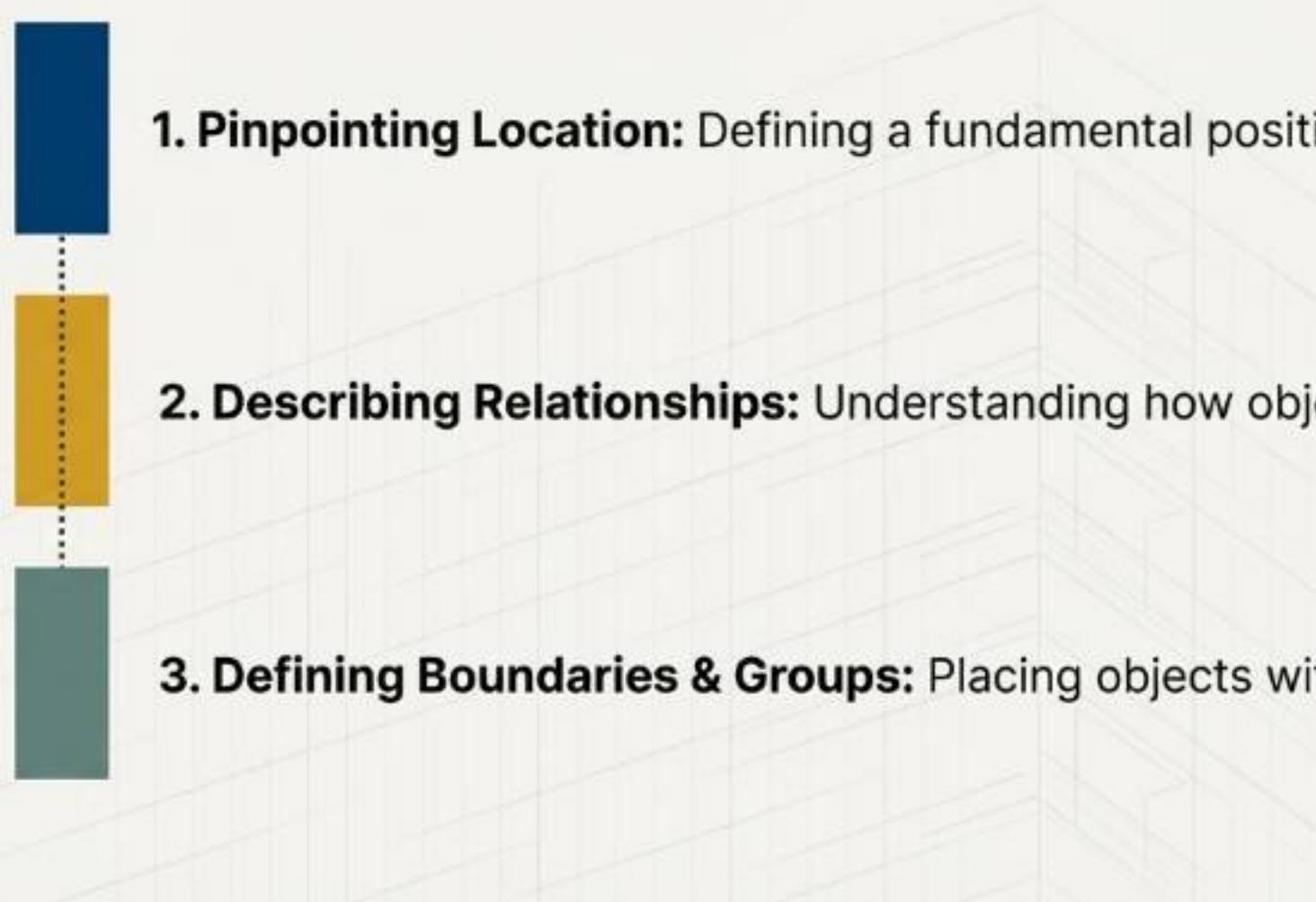
The Power of Where

Prepositions of place are the architectural tools we use to build a scene with words. They show where a person, object, or location is, allowing us to describe position, distance, and direction with simplicity and accuracy. Mastering them is mastering how we articulate the world around us.



A Framework for Understanding Space

We will explore prepositions not as a random list, but through three core spatial concepts.



1. Pinpointing Location: Defining a fundamental position.

2. Describing Relationships: Understanding how objects relate to each other.

3. Defining Boundaries & Groups: Placing objects within or among collectives.

1

Headline: Concept 1: Pinpointing Location

Sub-headline: The Three Primitives of Place: A Point, A Surface, An Area.” Inter

AT – The Specific Point

Definition

Used for a specific point or place.

Example

‘at the bus stop’

Use Case

Think of ‘at’ as dropping a pin on a map. It specifies a precise meeting point, address, or location in a larger space.



ON – The Surface

Definition

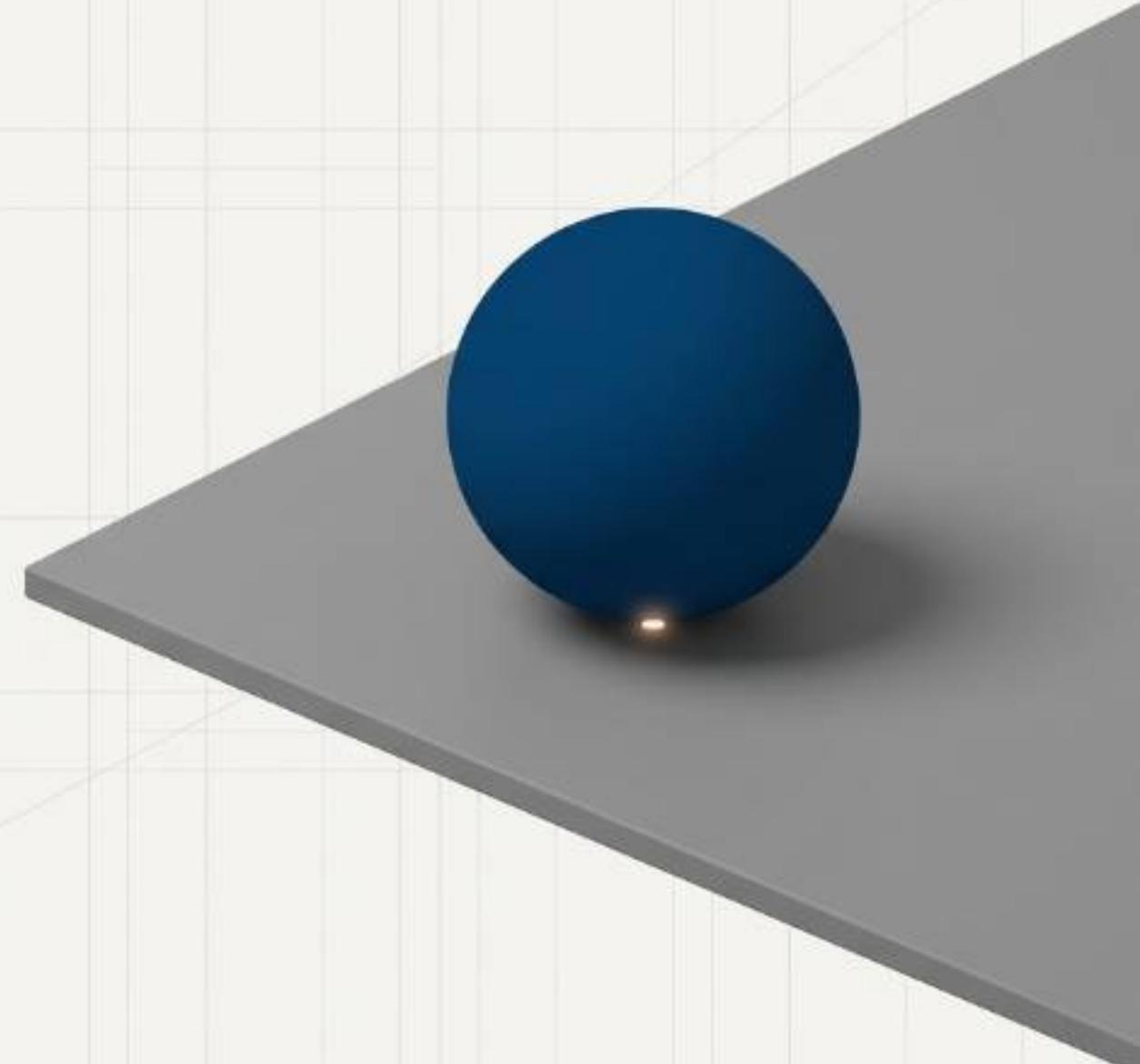
Used when something is touching a surface.

Example

"on the table"

Use Case

"On" describes a relationship where a surface—horizontal or vertical—is supporting an object.



IN – The Enclosed Area

Definition

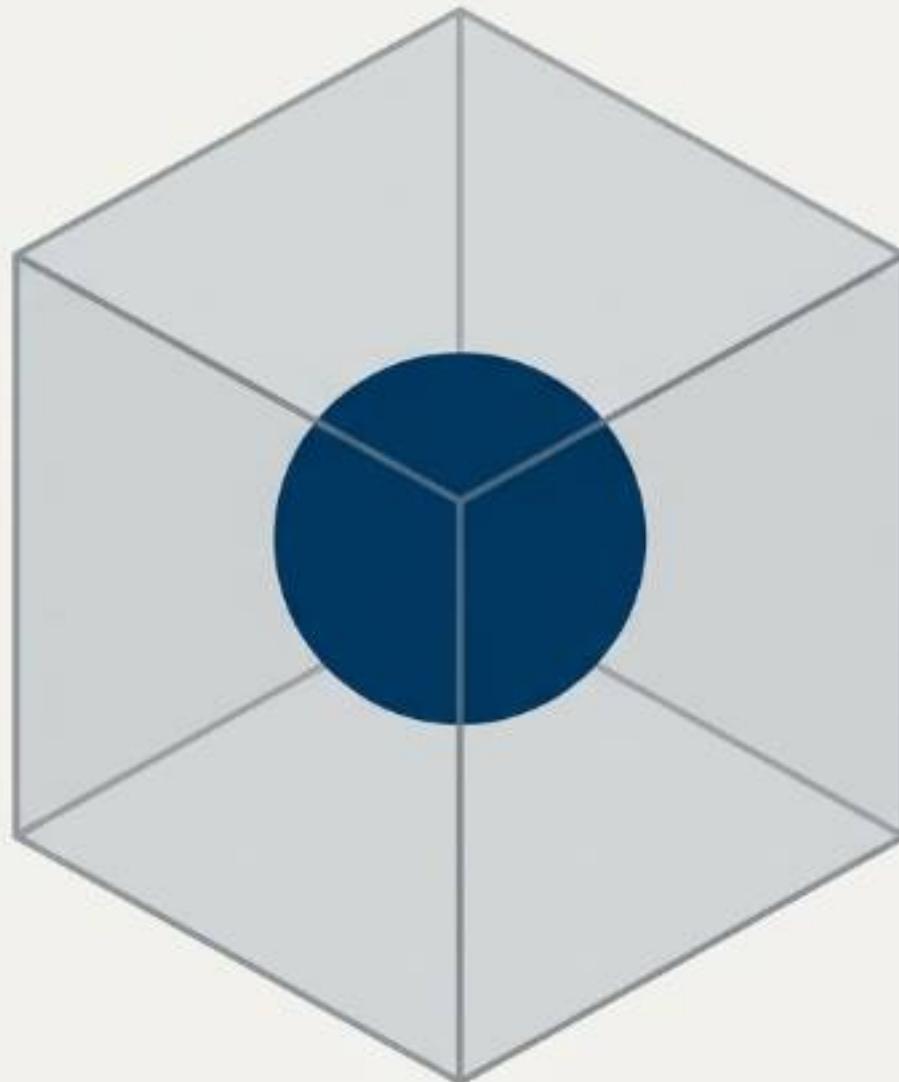
Used for something inside an area or space.

Example

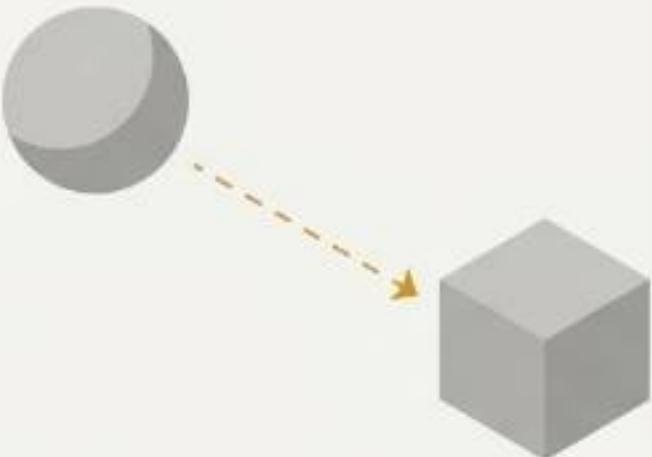
'in the room'

Use Case

'In' is used for three-dimensional spaces, containers, or large areas with defined (even if abstract) boundaries.



2



Concept 2: Describing Relationships

Positioning Objects in Relation to One Another.

The Vertical Axis: Above vs. Over

ABOVE



Definition: Higher than.

Example: 'above the clouds'

Key Idea: Implies a general higher position, not necessarily in a direct vertical line. No contact or covering.

OVER

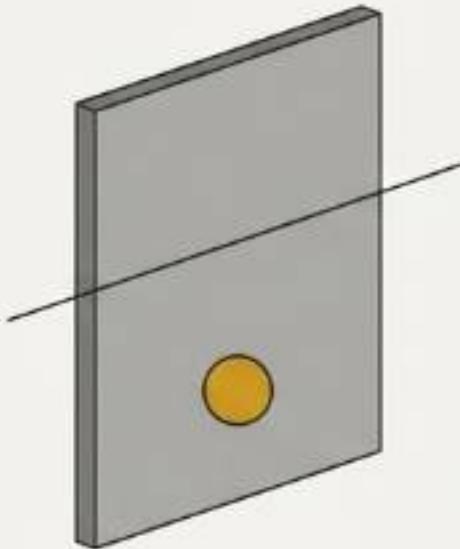


Definition: Above, covering.

Example: 'over the bridge'

Key Idea: Implies being directly above something, often crossing from one side to the other or covering it.

The Vertical Axis: Below vs. Under

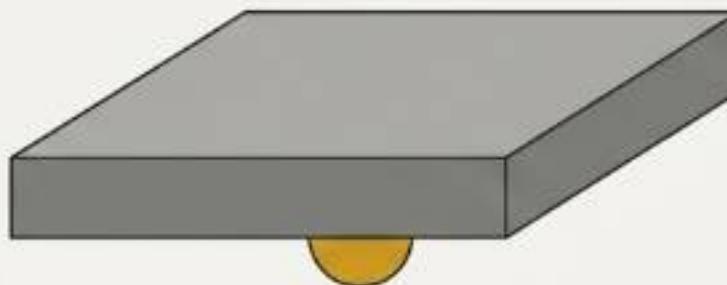


BELOW

Definition: Lower than.

Example: 'below the window'

Key Idea: A general lower position on the same vertical plane.



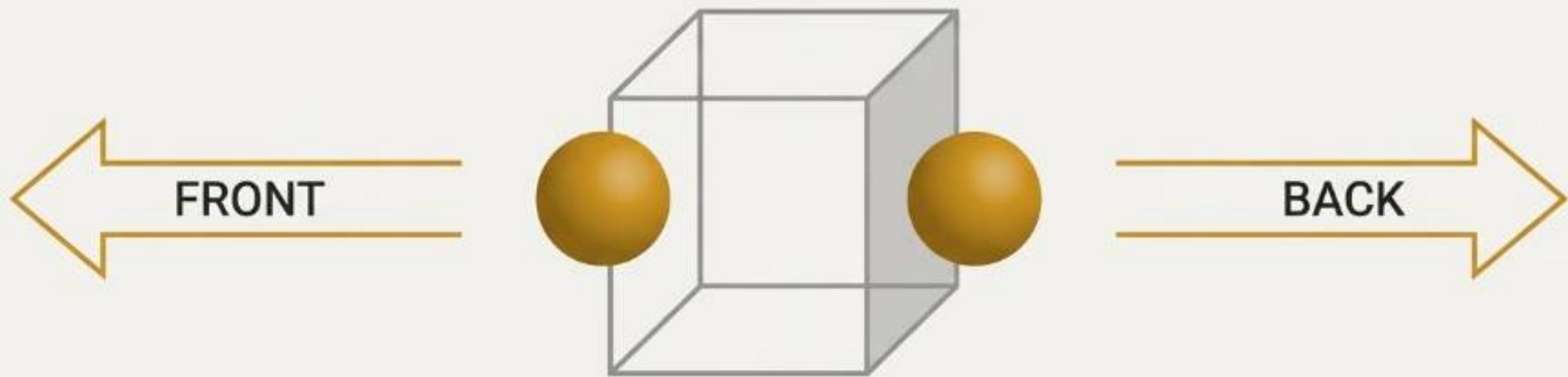
UNDER

Definition: Below something.

Example: 'under the bed'

Key Idea: Directly beneath something, often implying that it is covered or concealed.

The Horizontal Axis: In Front Of vs. Behind



IN FRONT OF

Definition: At the front of.

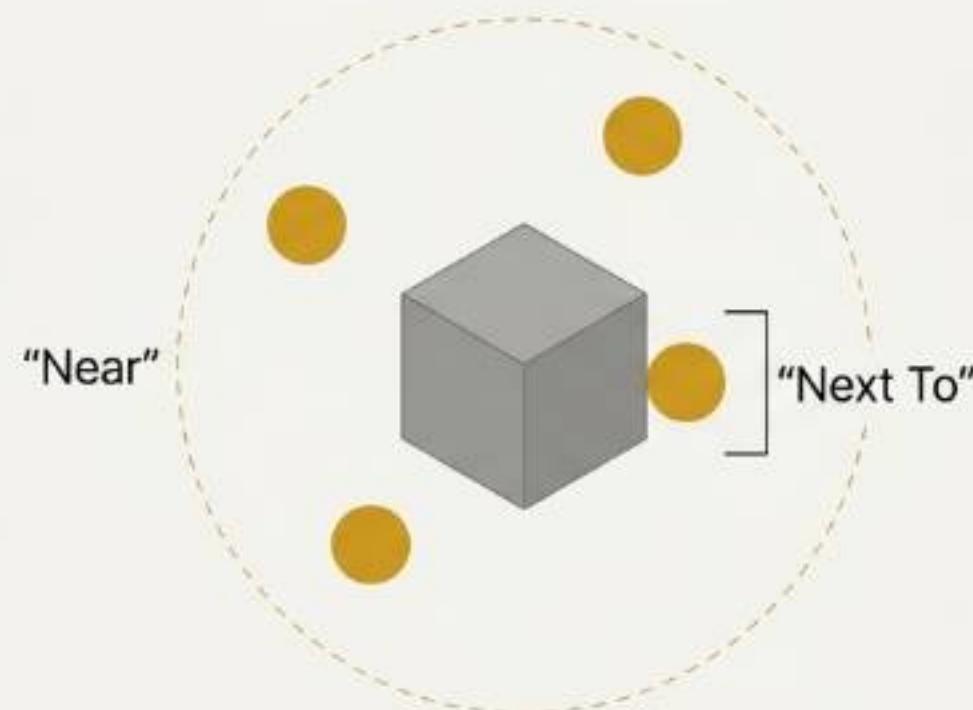
Example: 'in front of the shop'

BEHIND

Definition: At the back of.

Example: 'behind the house'

“Proximity: Near vs. Next To” in Söhne Kraftig



NEAR

Definition: Close to.

Example: 'near the park'

Key Idea: Describes general closeness or being in the vicinity of something.

NEXT TO

Definition: Close, beside.

Example: 'next to the chair'

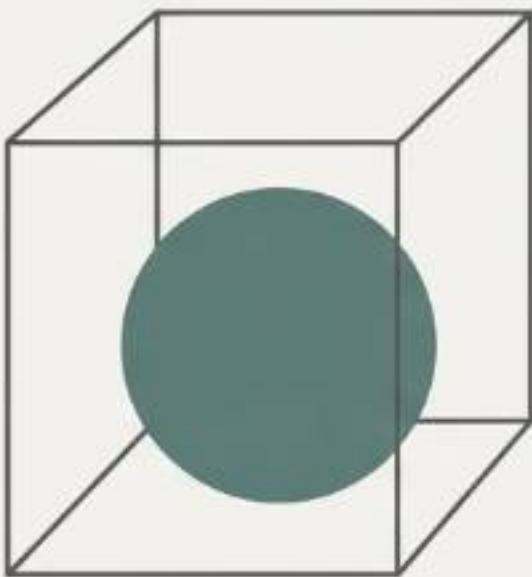
Key Idea: Implies being immediately adjacent to something, side-by-side.

30

Concept 3: Defining Boundaries & Groups

Placing Objects Within Collectives and Defined Spaces.

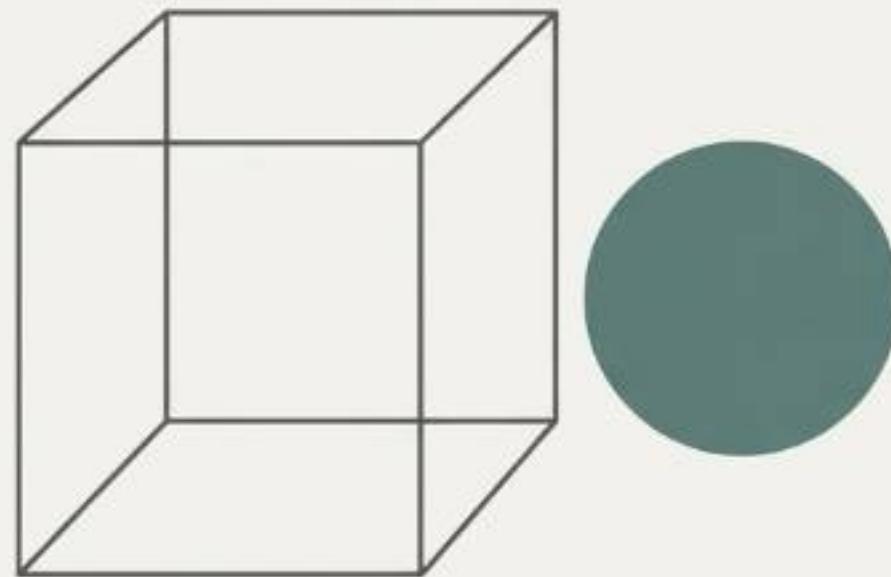
Containment: Inside vs. Outside



INSIDE

Definition: Within something.

Example: 'inside the box'



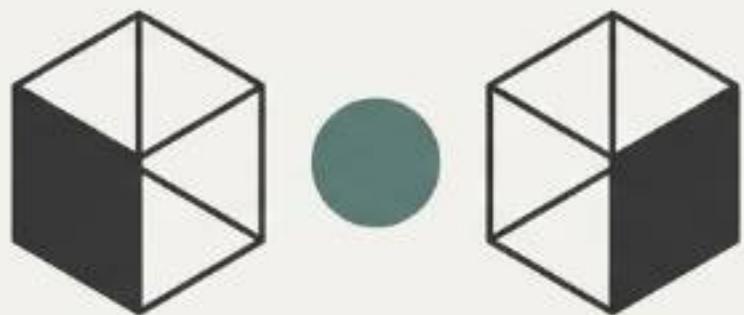
OUTSIDE

Definition: Not in something.

Example: 'outside the building'

In a Group: Between vs. Among

BETWEEN



Definition: In the middle of two.

Example: 'between the trees' (implying two trees).

Key Idea: Used for one or more items that are distinctly separated by other items on either side.

AMONG



Definition: In a group of many.

Example: 'among the people'

Key Idea: Used when something is part of a crowd, collective, or mass of items that are not clearly separated.

The Complete Map of Place

1. Pinpointing Location



AT (point)



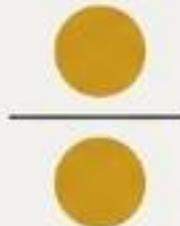
ON (surface)



IN (area)

2. Describing Relationships

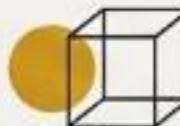
Vertical Axis



ABOVE / OVER

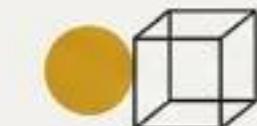
BELOW / UNDER

Horizontal Axis



IN FRONT OF /
BEHIND

Proximity



NEAR /
NEXT TO

3. Defining Boundaries & Groups

Containment

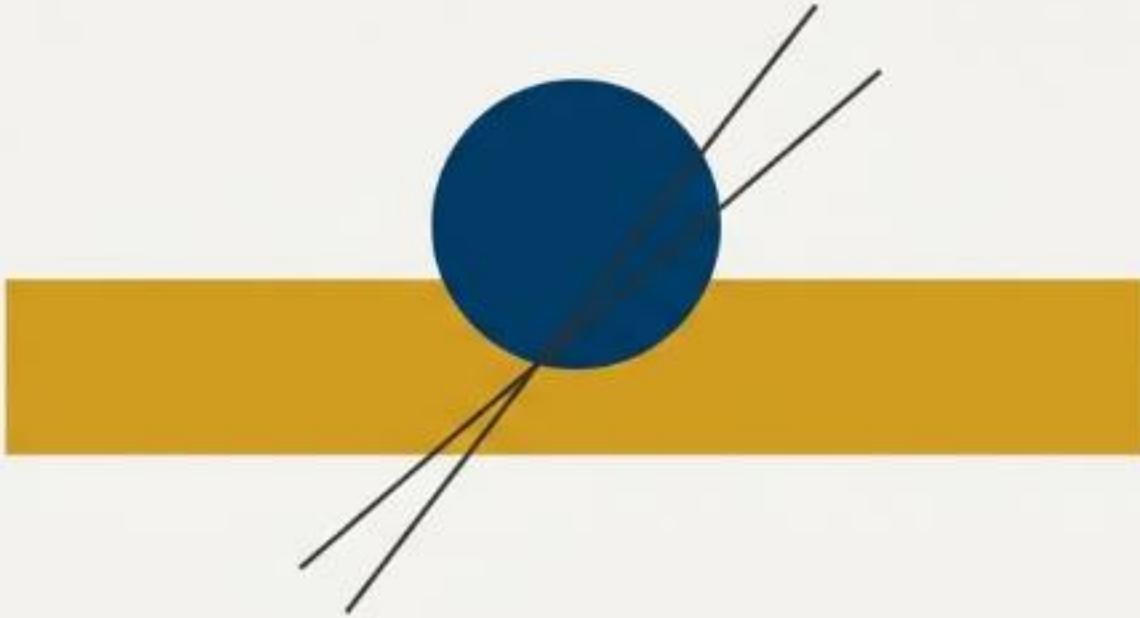


INSIDE / OUTSIDE

In a Group



BETWEEN / AMONG



Space, Described.