

## In/at/on (position) 3

## A

**In hospital / at work etc.**

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

- ☐ Anna's mother is **in hospital**.

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

- ☐ I'll be **at work** until 5.30.  
☐ Julia is studying chemistry **at university**.

We say that somebody **is at home** or **is home** (with or without **at**), but we say **do something at home** (with **at**):

- ☐ I'll **be at home** all evening. *or* I'll **be home** all evening.  
☐ Shall we go to a restaurant or **eat at home**?

## B

**At a party / at a concert etc.**

We say that somebody is **at** an event (**at a party / at a conference** etc.):

- ☐ Were there many people **at the party / at the meeting / at the wedding**?  
☐ I saw Steve **at a conference / at a concert** on Saturday.

## C

**In and at for buildings**

You can often use **in** or **at** with buildings. For example, you can eat **in a restaurant** or **at a restaurant**; you can buy something **in a supermarket** or **at a supermarket**. We usually say **at** when we say where an event takes place (for example: a concert, a film, a party, a meeting):

- ☐ We went to a concert **at the National Concert Hall**.  
☐ The meeting took place **at the company's head office** in Frankfurt.  
☐ There was a robbery **at the supermarket**.

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

- ☐ There's no need to meet me **at the station**. I can get a taxi.

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

- ☐ I was **at Helen's house** last night. *or* I was **at Helen's** last night.

*Also at the doctor's / at the hairdresser's etc.*

We use **in** when we are thinking about the building itself. Compare:

- ☐ We had dinner **at the hotel**.  
 All the rooms **in the hotel** have air conditioning. (*not at the hotel*)  
☐ I was **at Helen's (house)** last night.  
 It's always cold **in Helen's house**. The heating doesn't work well. (*not at Helen's house*)

## D

**In and at for towns etc.**

We normally use **in** with cities, towns and villages:

- ☐ The Louvre is a famous art museum **in Paris**. (*not at Paris*)  
☐ Sam's parents live **in a village** in the south of France. (*not at a village*)

We use **at** when we think of the place as a point or station on a journey:

- ☐ Does this train stop **at Oxford**? (= at Oxford station)

## E

**On a bus / in a car etc.**

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**.  
☐ Laura arrived **in a taxi**.

We say **on a bike** (= bicycle) / **on a motorbike** / **on a horse**:

- ☐ Jane passed me **on her bike**.