

Prepositions

25 *at, on, in* as prepositions of place


I saw her **at** the bus stop.
Can I meet you **at** the cinema?

- **at** a place:
 - **x** *at the bus stop/cinema*

Your books are **on** the table.
The painting looks nice **on** this wall.


- **on** a line or surface:


 **on the table**

 **on the wall**

Philip's **in** the kitchen.
Your bag's **in** the car.

- **in** a place = inside. The place is not a line or surface: it has walls or sides:

 **in the kitchen/car**

 **in the garden/park/town**

And we use **in** with names of towns and countries: **in Britain**, **in Paris**.

Note: We say: **in** a car, **on** a bus, **on** a train.

Practice

25 Complete these sentences with **at**, **on** or **in**.

- 1 Do you live *in* Manchester?
- 2 He was *at* the bus stop for half an hour.
- 3 Are the plates the cupboard?
- 4 Look at the example the board.
- 5 I met my girlfriend a party.
- 6 Kathy's not here – she's work at the moment.
- 7 Are my books that shelf?
- 8 My toothbrush isn't the bathroom. Where is it?
- 9 She usually sits the floor.
- 10 Is your daughter happy school?
- 11 We had breakfast the garden.
- 12 There are too many cars the road.

27 *at, on, in* as prepositions of time

They finish school **at** 4 o'clock.
The children usually have a story **at** bedtime.

- **at** a point in time:
at one o'clock, half-past five, midnight;
at lunchtime, dinner-time;
at the end of the lesson.

I saw her **on** Monday.
My birthday's **on** 4th September.

- **on** a day or date:
on Tuesday, Thursday;
on 1st April, 4th June;
on the first day of spring.

I usually work **in** the mornings.
The weather's very nice here **in** the summer.

- **in** a period of time:
in the morning, afternoon, evening;
in April, May, June;
in the summer, winter;
in 1992.

Notes

- **on** Wednesday, **in** the afternoon, **on** Wednesday afternoon.
- **in** the morning, afternoon, evening, but **at** night.
- **on** Christmas Eve, Independence Day, Easter Sunday, but **at** Christmas, **at** New Year.

Practice

27 Complete the sentences with **at**, **on** or **in**.

- College starts *at* 9 o'clock in the morning.
- I usually go swimming *on* Tuesdays.
- I got up 7 o'clock this morning.
- Jim came round Saturday afternoon.
- The children get too many presents Christmas.
- We usually take our holiday September.
- They don't go out very often the evenings.
- She was born *in* Australia 1952.
- I always go and see her her birthday.
- She phoned up the beginning of the match on TV.
- They usually come and stay with us the summer holidays.
- We moved here 20th October.

ANSWERS

- 24** 1 to ... cinema 2 for ... run 3 fishing
4 riding 5 to Paris 6 for ... swim 7 skiing
8 to ... disco

- 25** 1 in 2 at 3 in 4 on 5 at 6 at 7 on 8 in
9 on 10 at 11 in 12 on

- 27** 1 at ... in 2 on 3 at 4 on 5 at 6 in 7 in
8 in 9 on 10 at 11 in 12 on

- 28a** be *being*
clean *cleaning*
come *coming*
do *doing*
fly *flying*
get (up) *getting (up)*
give *giving*
listen *listening*
live *living*
play *playing*
smoke *smoking*
stay *staying*
study *studying*
swim *swimming*
teach *teaching*
watch *watching*
work *working*
write *writing*

- 28b** 1 listening 2 coming 3 cleaning
4 swimming 5 giving 6 writing 7 being
8 smoking 9 flying 10 playing
11 watching 12 getting up 13 teaching
14 studying 15 doing 16 working
17 living 18 staying

- 29a** 1 have 2 buy 3 sit 4 be 5 play 6 stay
7 ask 8 pay 9 come 10 see

- 29b** 1 cooking 2 to go 3 to see 4 going
5 living 6 to travel 7 to speak 8 to buy
9 bringing 10 playing

- 30** 1 We never go to the mountains.
2 She doesn't often write to me.
3 The boys always play football on
Saturday afternoons.
4 The bus usually arrives late.

- 5 I often go to bed before 11.
6 She never drinks coffee in the evening.
7 It doesn't often rain in the summer.
8 I always read books slowly
9 My father usually goes to work by bus.
10 We always go to the beach at the
weekend.

TEST 1

Part A

- 1 very 2 my 3 in 4 got 5 go 6 goes/travels
7 on 8 at 9 swimming 10 There

Part B

- 1 Do 2 at 3 Those 4 did you do 5 Have you
got 6 reading 7 older than 8 There are 9
were 10 at

Part C

- A: Did you have a nice time in London at the
weekend?
B: Yes, I did. I stayed with an old friend from
school and we had a wonderful time
together. On Saturday we went to an art
gallery in the morning, a concert in the
afternoon and an Italian restaurant in the
evening. It was a great weekend. What
about you? Did you have a nice weekend?
A: It wasn't very interesting. I stayed at home
all weekend.
B: Why didn't you go out?
A: I didn't feel very well.
B: Oh. I'm sorry about that.
A: That's all right. I'm better now.

Part D

- 1 Has your brother got a job?
2 There are some beautiful buildings in
this town.
3 Their mother teaches history at the college.
4 I like listening to music in the evenings.
5 Angela is taller than all her sisters.
6 What are those lights in the sky?
7 What time do you finish work?
8 They were not at school yesterday.
9 She did not phone me at the weekend.
10 I sometimes go skiing in the winter.