

## Prepositions of Place

### Introduction

1) A preposition is usually a short word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence.

*If I'm not mistaken, her birthday is **in** May.*

2) There are many types of prepositions. Among them there are prepositions of place. They are used to show the position or location of one thing with another. We usually use prepositions of place when we answer the question beginning with 'Where?'

***Where** do you live? – I live **in** New York.*

There are three main prepositions of place:

a) *at* denotes specific point or location of something.

*There's someone standing **at** the door. (specific location)*

*There weren't many people **at** the theatre. It's Monday after all. (specific location)*

*Alex lives **at** number 25 Emerald Street. (address)*

*Ashley works **at** Apple. (company or workplace)*

b) *in* implies that something is located in an enclosed space or within a larger area.

*I think I left my phone **in** the living-room. (the living-room is part of your house)*

*Jake lives **in** the U.S. He lives **in** Texas. (country, state etc.)*

c) *on* implies that something is located on the surface.

*Could you grab my phone? It's **on** the coffee table in the living-room. (the surface of furniture)*

*Jake's sister is **on** the west coast. She absolutely loves the Pacific! (position along a road, river or by the sea, lake etc.)*

*Alex lives **on** the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. (the floor in the building)*

*Sorry, I'll call you back. I'm **on** the train now. (public transport)*

*My grandparents work **on** a farm. (open fields = the surface of the earth)*

Sometimes you can use both *at* and *in* when you talk about the location, although there is a slight difference in meaning. Study the following examples:

*My siblings are **at** the mall now. (You are stating the location in general. Your siblings could be inside the mall, somewhere at the entrance, or at the parking lot.)*

*My siblings are **in** the mall now. (You are specifying that your siblings are inside the mall building.)*

### Short Story Dialogue

*– Ann, hurry up! The Smiths are waiting for us **at** the restaurant!*

*– I know, I know! I can't find my shoes.*

*– Have you tried looking for them **in** the closet?*

*– Not funny, Nick. I think I might have left them **in** the living-room when I was taking pictures of my new shoes.*

*– There are some shoes **on** the bed. Aren't these yours?*

*– Oh, that's right! And now I need to find my phone – and I'm ready to go!*

*– It's right there **on** your bedside table.*

*– Oh, thanks! Love you!*

---

## Independent Practice - Prepositions of Place

### 1) Fill in the gaps with *at, in, on*.

- a. My cat likes sleeping ..... my bed when I'm ..... work.
- b. Peter's relatives live ..... the east coast so he doesn't visit them that often.
- c. Our kids love swimming ..... the lake nearby.
- d. I am currently living ..... Germany and doing my internship here.
- e. Were you ..... the party too? I haven't seen you!
- f. Do you live with your parents or ..... your own place?
- g. Kyle was ..... the dentist's today. He needs some hugs in the evening.
- h. Meredith grew up ..... a farm ..... Idaho.
- i. I left my headphones ..... home. It's going to be a boring ride ..... the bus!
- j. There are so many tasty things ..... the menu!

---

## Independent Practice: Answers - Prepositions of Place

### 1) Fill in the gaps with *at*, *in*, *on*.

- a. My cat likes sleeping **on** my bed when I'm **at** work.
- b. Peter's relatives live **on** the east coast so he doesn't visit them that often.
- c. Our kids love swimming **in** the lake nearby.
- d. I am currently living **in** Germany and doing my internship here.
- e. Were you **at** the party too? I haven't seen you!
- f. Do you live with your parents or **at** your own place?
- g. Kyle was **at** the dentist's today. He needs some hugs **in** the evening.
- h. Meredith grew up **on** a farm **in** Idaho.
- i. I left my headphones **at** home. It's going to be a boring ride **on** the bus!
- j. There are so many tasty things **on** the menu!