Prepositions of place: in, on, at, next to

Introduction



The laptop is on the desk. The cup is next to the laptop. The flowers are in a vase.

Definition

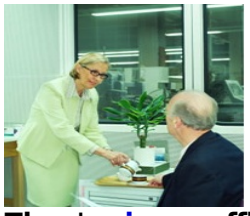
We use the prepositions 'in', 'on', 'at' and 'next to' to for location and position.

Uses

	Uses	Examples	
in	An enclosed space	in a box, a bag, a room, a cupboard, a cup	
	Towns, cities, states, countries, continents etc.	in Birmingham, Kent, California, Japan, Asia	
	Other large areas	in the countryside, a neighbourhood, a district, a park, a car park, a garden, the world	
	Roads	in a street, a road, an avenue, the High Street, Bingley Road [UK]	
	Pictures and documents	in a picture, a photo, a painting, a report, an email, a contract, a newspaper, a magazine,a book, a film	
	Some (smaller) forms of transport		in a car, a taxi, a helicopter, an open boat

	Uses	Examples	
on	A surface - horizontal or vertical	on the table, the wall, a shelf, a screen, a plate, a face, a head, page 2, the front cover of the book, the menu	
	Transport and travel	on a bus, train, a boat, a ship, a flight, a trip, a journey, a picnic, a bike ride, a break, holiday	
	Some locations	on the left, the right, the side, the coast, the beach, the 2nd floor on an island, a farm, a college campus on a road/street/avenue etc. [mainly US] on a motorway, the High Street, Oxford Street [i.e. main roads]	
on (the) top of	At the highest point of something tall or high	on top of a cupboard, wardrobe, a hill, a mountain	
at	Some locations that are buildings	at the cinema, the theatre, the pub, a restaurant, work, home, school, university	
	Some other locations	at the beach, the lake	
	A point on a journey	*at a junction, traffic lights, a corner, a bus stop| |:::|An address|at 88 Bingley Road, 10 Downing Street| |:::|Positions|at the back, the front, the top, the bottom, the end**	

Examples



They're in an office.



She's in London.



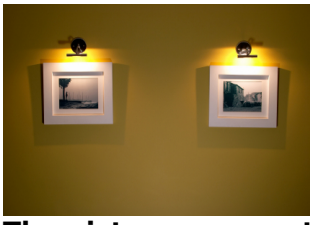
She's at the reception desk.



They're at work.



Emily is on the sofa.



The pictures are on the wall.



The red wine is next to the white wine.



Sue's next to Jim.

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Last update: **2023/02/14 14:21**