

# 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	<b>in</b> a box, a bag, a room, a cupboard, a cup	
	Towns, cities, states, countries, continents etc.	<b>in</b> Birmingham, Kent, California, Japan, Asia	
	Other large areas	<b>in</b> the countryside, a neighbourhood, a district, a park, a car park, a garden, the world	
	Roads	<b>in</b> a street, a road, an avenue, the High Street, Bingley Road [UK]	
	Pictures and documents	<b>in</b> 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		<b>in</b> 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 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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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