

# Prepositions of place

## Introduction



The family is sitting **on** a bench **in** the garden.

Grandpa is **on** the left and mum and dad are **at** the back. Grandma is **in** the middle, **between** the children. The dog is **on** the right.

## Prepositions of place

These prepositions give us information about where something is located. The following tables give some guidelines and examples but you may hear some variations depending on sentence structure, context and regional variations.





## In, on, at







Uses	Examples
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<b>in</b>	<p><b>An enclosed space</b></p> <p><b>Towns, cities, states, countries, continents etc.</b></p> <p><b>Other large areas</b></p> <p><b>Roads</b></p> <p><b>Pictures and documents</b></p> <p><b>Some (smaller) forms of transport</b></p>	<p><b>in</b> a box, a bag, a room, a cupboard, a cup</p> <p><b>in</b> Birmingham, Kent, California, Japan, Asia</p> <p><b>in</b> the countryside, a neighbourhood, a district, a park, a car park, a garden, the world</p> <p><b>in</b> a street, a road, an avenue, the High Street, Bingley Road [UK]</p> <p><b>in</b> a picture, a photo, a painting, a report, an email, a contract, a newspaper, a magazine, a book, a film</p> <p><b>in</b> a car, a taxi, a helicopter, an open boat</p>
<b>on</b>	<p><b>A surface - horizontal or vertical</b></p> <p><b>Transport and travel</b></p> <p><b>Some locations</b></p>	<p><b>on</b> the table, the wall, a shelf, a screen, a plate, a face, a head, page 2, the front cover of the book, the menu</p> <p><b>on</b> a bus, train, a boat, a ship, a flight, a trip, a journey, a picnic, a bike ride, a break, holiday</p> <p><b>on</b> the left, the right, the side, the coast, the beach, the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor</p> <p><b>on</b> an island, a farm, a college campus</p> <p><b>on</b> a road/street/avenue etc. [mainly US]</p> <p><b>on</b> a motorway, the High Street, Oxford Street [i.e. main roads]</p>
<b>on (the) top of</b>	<b>At the highest point of something tall or high</b>	<b>on top of</b> a cupboard, wardrobe, a hill, a mountain

<b>at</b>	<b>Some locations that are buildings</b>	<b>at the cinema, the theatre, the pub, a restaurant, work, home, school, university</b>
	<b>Some other locations</b>	<b>at the beach, the lake</b>
	<b>A point on a journey</b>	<b>at a junction, traffic lights, a corner, a bus stop</b>
	<b>An address</b>	<b>at 88 Bingley Road, 10 Downing Street</b>
	<b>Positions</b>	<b>at the back, the front, the top, the bottom, the end</b>

## Other prepositions of place

Uses		Examples
above 	Higher than	Our plane is now <b>above</b> the clouds.  Let's put the shelf <b>on</b> this wall <b>above</b> the TV.
Under 	Directly below	The cat's <b>under</b> the table.
Opposite 	On the other side of something	I sat <b>opposite</b> James at the meeting.  The bank is <b>opposite</b> the station.
Near 	A short distance from	"Is the hotel <b>near</b> the station?" "Yes, it's just a 5-minute walk away."  We live <b>near</b> the sea. [up to a few km away]

<b>next to</b> 	<b>Adjacent to, at the side of [closer than near]</b>	<p>We live <b>next to</b> the sea. [a few metres away - we can see it]</p> <p>I sit <b>next to</b> Jane at work.</p>
<b>behind</b> 	<b>At the back of</b>	<p>The car park is <b>behind</b> the shopping centre.</p>
<b>in front of</b> 	<b>Just ahead of or close to the front part of something</b>	<p>The shopping centre is <b>in front of</b> the car park.</p> <p>There's a statue <b>in front of</b> the fountain.</p>
<b>around</b> 	<b>On every side or in a circular way</b>  <b>Just past a corner, after turning it</b>  <b>'Near', in this area</b>	<p>They sat <b>around</b> a table.</p> <p>There are lots of restaurants <b>around</b> the square.</p> <p>Where's the station; is it far? No, it's <b>around</b> the next corner.</p> <p>Is there a station <b>around</b> here?</p>
<b>between</b> 	<b>Having something on each side</b>	<p>The bank is <b>between</b> a supermarket and a book shop.</p> <p>My desk is <b>between</b> Harry's and Marie's.</p>
<b>From</b> 	<b>A point of origin</b>	<p>He lives <b>in</b> London now but he's <b>from</b> the north of England.</p>

## 'In' and 'out'

As adverbs, these can be used alone to mean 'here' or 'not here':

"Can I speak to Jack, please?"

"Sorry, he's not **in** today. Can I take a message?" [not at work]

I'm the only person at home today. Everyone else is **out**. [not at home]

We're going **out** later, maybe to the cinema; we're not sure yet.

I didn't hear you come **in** last night; what time was it?

See also **Adverbs of time** and **place**.

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