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Other 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.

Other prepositions of place

	Uses	Examples
above	Higher than	Our plane is now above the clouds.
×		Let's put the shelf on this wall above the TV.
Under ×	Directly below	The cat's under the table.

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Opposite x	On the other side of something	I sat opposite James at the meeting. The bank is opposite the station.
Near ×	A short distance from	"Is the hotel near the station?" "Yes, it's just a 5-minute walk away."
		We live near the sea. [up to a few km away]
next to	Adjacent to, at the side of [closer than	We live next to the sea. [a few metres away - we can see it]
×	near]	I sit next to Jane at work.
behind	At the back of	The car park is behind the shopping centre.
in front of	Just ahead of or close to the front part of something	The shopping centre is in front of the car park.
-		There's a statue in front of the fountain.
around	On every side or in a circular way	They sat around a table.
×		There are lots of restaurants around the square.
	Just past a corner, after turning it	Where's the station; is it far? No, it's around the next corner.
	'Near', in this area	Is there a station around here?
between	Having something on each side	The bank is between a supermarket and a book shop.
		My desk is between Harry's and Marie's.
From	A point of origin	He lives in London now but he's from the north of England.

'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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