

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.

Opposite 	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 near]	We live next to the sea. [a few metres away - we can see it] 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 Just past a corner, after turning it 'Near', in this area	They sat around a table. There are lots of restaurants around the square. Where's the station; is it far? No, it's around the next corner. 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.

'Opposite' or 'in front of'?

These are often confused. Sometimes, we can distinguish between them simply by considering the following examples:

- There was a man **in front of** me on the bus. [I could see the back of his head.]
- There was a man **opposite** me at the meeting. [I could see his face.]

However, we use 'in front of' when talking about objects with 'screens':

- She spends too much time **in front of** the mirror/tv/computer.

This is because we usually use '**in front of**' when there is little or no space between things and '**opposite**' when there is a greater distance:



There's one street lamp **in front of** my house and another one **opposite** my house.

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

