

# Review

## Prepositions of Place AT, IN, ON

In general, we use:

- **at** for a POINT, INSTITUTIONS
- **in** for a WIDE FLAT AREA, an ENCLOSED SPACE/INSIDE A BOX, a GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS
- **on** for a LINE, a HORIZON, a VERTICAL SURFACE, a PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Look at these examples:

- My plane stopped **at** Dubai and Hanoi and arrived **in** Bangkok two hours late.
- When will you arrive **at** the office?
- Do you work **in** an office?
- Jupiter is **in** the Solar System.
- You are standing **on** my foot.
- I live **on** the seventh floor **at** 21 Oxford Street **in** London.

Notice the use of the prepositions of place **at**, **in**, and **on** in these standard expressions:

POINT USE <b>AT</b>	ENCLOSED SPACE USE <b>IN</b>	SURFACE USE <b>ON</b>
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I made a list with the most common expressions for you to take a look at, whenever you need to choose between in, on and at.

<p><b>at</b> a concert, <b>at</b> a party, <b>at</b> a football match, etc.  <b>at</b> a conference  <b>at</b> a meeting  <b>at</b> a party  <b>at</b> college  <b>at</b> her brother's home  <b>at</b> home  <b>at</b> Jenny's house  <b>at</b> my desk  <b>at</b> number 19  <b>at</b> school  <b>at</b> the airport  <b>at</b> the back  <b>at</b> the bottom  <b>at</b> the bus stop  <b>at</b> the cinema  <b>at</b> the corner  <b>at</b> the crossroads  <b>at</b> the doctor's/hairdresser's, etc.  <b>at</b> the door  <b>at</b> the end (of ...)  <b>at</b> the entrance  <b>at</b> the front  <b>at</b> the front desk  <b>at</b> the hospital  <b>at</b> the piano  <b>at</b> the pub  <b>at</b> reception  <b>at</b> the crossroads  <b>at</b> the end of the road/street  <b>at</b> the entrance  <b>at</b> the office  <b>at</b> the restaurant  <b>at</b> the (sea)side  <b>at</b> the station  <b>at</b> the swimming pool  <b>at</b> the table (eating/working)  <b>at</b> the top  <b>at</b> the top of the page  <b>at</b> the traffic lights  <b>at</b> the window  <b>at</b> (the) university  <b>at</b> work</p>	<p><b>in</b> a bag  <b>in</b> a bank  <b>in</b> (a) bed  <b>in</b> a box  <b>in</b> a car, <b>in</b> a taxi  <b>in</b> a book  <b>in</b> a bo]le  <b>in</b> a building  <b>in</b> a café  <b>in</b> a (my) car  <b>in</b> a cup, <b>in</b> a cupboard  <b>in</b> a drawer  <b>in</b> England, etc.  <b>in</b> a field  <b>in</b> a garden  <b>in</b> a helicopter  <b>in</b> a house  <b>in</b> a lib (elevator)  <b>in</b> a meeZng  <b>in</b> a (the) pub  <b>in</b> a mirror  <b>in</b> a picture, <b>in</b> a photograph  <b>in</b> a pocket  <b>in</b> a queue  <b>in</b> a (the) river  <b>in</b> a room  <b>in</b> a row  <b>in</b> a (the) street  <b>in</b> (a) town  <b>in</b> an armchair(sit)  <b>in</b> an (my) office  <b>in</b> a shop, <b>in</b> a factory  <b>in</b> bed (sleeping)  <b>in</b> (the) church  <b>in</b> hospital  <b>in</b> London, <b>in</b> High Street etc.  <b>in</b> (a) hospital  <b>in</b> my pocket, <b>in</b> my wallet <b>in</b> my stomach  <b>in</b> prison  <b>in</b> space  <b>in</b> the background/foreground  <b>in</b> the city, <b>in</b> the city center  <b>in</b> the corner(room)  <b>in</b> the country  <b>in</b> the garden  <b>in</b> the kitchen</p>	<p><b>on</b> a bag  <b>on</b> a balcony  <b>on</b> a bicycle (bike), <b>on</b> a motorbike  <b>on</b> a bo]le  <b>on</b> a chair  <b>on</b> a door  <b>on</b> a farm  <b>on</b> a horse, <b>on</b> an elephant  <b>on</b> a page  <b>on</b> a planet  <b>on</b> a plate  <b>on</b> a river  <b>on</b> a road  <b>on</b> a shelf  <b>on</b> a t-shirt  <b>on</b> a (the) wall  <b>on</b> an island  <b>on</b> earth  <b>on</b> holiday(s)  <b>on</b> my bike/bicycle  <b>on</b> my face, <b>on</b> my foot  <b>on</b> television, <b>on</b> TV  <b>on</b> the ground, <b>on</b> the 4th floor, etc.  <b>on</b> the beach  <b>on</b> the bus/plane/train/ship  <b>on</b> the carpet  <b>on</b> the ceiling  <b>on</b> the coast  <b>on</b> the cover  <b>on</b> the envelope  <b>on</b> the (second) floor  <b>on</b> the grass  <b>on</b> the leb, <b>on</b> the right  <b>on</b> the menu  <b>on</b> the page  <b>on</b> the radio  <b>on</b> the right  <b>on</b> the river  <b>on</b> the shelf  <b>on</b> the sofa  <b>on</b> the table  <b>on</b> the tree  <b>on</b> the wall  <b>on</b> the way (to...), <b>on</b> the (my) way home  <b>on</b> the way from A to B  <b>on</b> the window</p>
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# NOTE

1) He worked **at the** university.  
I studied math **at** university.  
She worked **in a** hospital.  
She visited him **in** hospital.

2) go/come/walk/get/arrive (etc.) **home** (without 'to')  
be/stay/do something (etc.) **at home**

3) go/come/return/walk/get **to** work/school/university/a party/the airport/Paris/Italy/bed  
be/stay/do something **in** London/France/the city center/bed  
be/stay/do something **at** work/school/university/a party/the station/her brother's house

4) arrive **in** a country or town (arrive in Italy / arrive in Paris etc.)  
arrive **at** other places (arrive at the station / arrive at the hotel / arrive at work, etc.)

5) I saw her **at** the cinema. (as a point)

- by the door of the cinema but still in the street,
- inside the cinema, where you have to pay
- right inside where the seats and the screen are

I saw her **in** the cinema. (as a building)

- inside the cinema, where you have to pay
- right inside where the seats and the screen are
- **BUT NOT:** 'in the street', unless you're talking about where cars go