

IN ON AT

POSITION

IN

in a room

in a building

in a box

in a garden

in a town / in a country

in the city centre

in a pool

in the sea

in a river

There is nobody **in** the room. / **in** the building. / **in** the garden.

What have you got **in** your hand? / **in** your mouth?

I have a friend who lives **in** a small village **in** the mountains.

There were some people swimming **in** the pool. / **in** the sea. / **in** the river.

AT

at the bus stop

at the door

at the roundabout

at reception

Who is that man standing **at** the bus stop? / **at** the door? / **at** the window?

Turn left **at** the traffic lights. / **at** the church. / **at** the roundabout. / **at** the junction.

We have to get off the bus **at** the next stop.

When you leave the hotel, please leave your key **at** reception. (= at the reception desk)

ON

on the ceiling

on the table

on the wall

on her nose

on the door

on a page

on the floor

on an island

I sat **on** the floor. / **on** the ground. / **on** the grass. / **on** the beach. / **on** a chair.

There's a dirty mark **on** the wall. / **on** the ceiling. / **on** your nose. / **on** your shirt.

Have you seen the notice **on** the notice board? / **on** the door?

You'll find details of TV programmes **on** page seven (of the newspaper).

The hotel is **on** a small island in the middle of the lake.

COMPARE IN AND AT:

There were a lot of people **in** the shop. It was very crowded.

Go around this road, then turn left **at** the shop.

I'll meet you **in** the hotel lobby.

I'll meet you **at** the entrance to the hotel.

COMPARE IN AND ON:

There is some water **in** the bottle.

There is a label **on** the bottle.

COMPARE AT AND ON:

There is somebody **at** the door. Shall I go and see who it is?

There is a notice **on** the door. It says "Do not disturb".

IN

We say that somebody / something is:

in a line / **in** a row / in a queue **in** bed
in the sky / **in** the world **in** the country / **in** the countryside
in an office / **in** a department **in** a picture / **in** a photo / **in** a photograph
in a book / **in** a paper (newspaper) / **in** a magazine / **in** a letter

When I go to the cinema, I like to sit **in** the front row.
 James isn't up yet. He's still **in** bed.
 It was a lovely day. There wasn't a cloud **in** the sky.
 I've just started working **in** the sales department.
 Have you seen this picture **in** today's newspaper

ON

on the left / **on** the right / **on** the left-hand side / **on** the right-hand side
on the ground floor / **on** the first floor / **on** the second floor
on a map / **on** a menu / **on** a list
on a farm

In Britain we drive **on** the left. / In Britain we drive **on** the left-hand side.
 Our apartment is **on** the second floor of the building.
 Here's a shopping list. Don't buy anything that's not **on** the list.
 Have you ever worked **on** a farm?

We say that a place is **on a river / on a road / on the coast:**

Budapest is **on** the (river) Danube.
 The town where you live – is it **on** the coast or inland?

Also **on the way:**

We stopped to buy some things in a shop **on** the way home.

AT

at the top (of) / **at** the bottom (of) / **at** the end (of)

Write your name **at** the top of the page.
 Jane's house is **at** the end of the street.
 I have to put your signature **at** the bottom of the page.

in the front / in the back of a car

I was sitting in the back (of the car) when we crashed.

at the front / at the back of a building, theatre, group of people...

The garden is at the back of the house.
 Let's sit at the front (of the cinema, of the theatre...)
 We were at the back, so we couldn't see very well.

on the front / on the back of a letter, piece of paper...

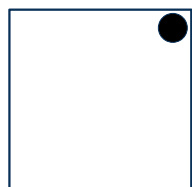
I wrote the date on the back of the photo.

in the corner of a room

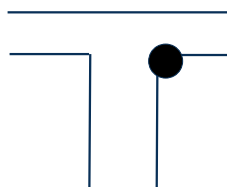
The TV is **in** the corner of the room.

at the corner or **on the corner of a street**

There is a small shop **at** the corner of the street.
 ... **on** the corner of the street.



in the corner



at / on the corner

in hospital / at work

We say that somebody is **in hospital / in prison / in jail**

Anna's mother is **in** hospital.

We say that somebody is **at work / at university / at college**

I'll be **at** work until 05:30.

Julia is studying chemistry **at** university.

We say that somebody is **at** home or **is** home (with or without at), but we say **do something at**

I'll be **at** home all evening. or I'll be home all evening.

Shall we go to restaurant or eat **at** home?

at a party / at a concert

We say that somebody is **at an event (at a party / at a conference / ...)**

Were there many people **at** the party / **at** the meeting / **at** the wedding?

I saw Steve **at** a conference / **at** a concert on Saturday.

IN and AT for buildings

You can often use **in** or **at** with buildings. For example, you can **eat in a restaurant** or **at a restaurant**; you can buy something **in a supermarket** or **at a supermarket**. We usually say **at** when we say where an event takes place (for example: a concert, a movie, a meeting...)

We went to a concert **at** the National Concert Hall.

The meeting took place **at** the company's head office in Frankfurt.

There was a robbery **at** the supermarket.

We say **at the station / at the airport**

There's no need to meet me **at** the station. I can get a taxi.

We say **at somebody's house**

I was **at** the Helen's house last night. Or I was **at** Helen's last night.

Also **at the doctor / at the hairdresser / ...**

We use **in** when we are thinking about the building itself. Compare:

We had dinner **at the hotel**.

All the rooms **in the hotel** have air conditioning. (not at the hotel)

I was **at Helen's** (house) last night.

It always cold **in Helen's house**. The heating doesn't work well. (not at the Helen's house)

in the hospital / at the hospital

in the hospital = you are sick, in the hospital

at the hospital = you are visiting someone at the hospital

IN and AT for towns, ...

We normally use **in** with cities, towns and villages

The Louvre is a famous art museum **in** Paris. (not at Paris)

Sam's parents live **in** a village in the south of France. (not a village)

We use **at** when we think of the place as a point os station on a journey

Does this train stop **at** Oxford? (= at Oxford station)

on a bus / in a car / ...

We usually say **on a bus / on a train / on a plane / on a ship** BUT **in a car / in a taxi**

The bus was very full. There were too many people **on** it.

Laura arrived **in** a taxi.

We say **on a bike / on a motorbike / on a horse**

Jane passed me **on** her bike.
