



Prepositions: In, On & At

Important notice:

At the end of this presentation there is a link to a Google Form quiz. You must score an 80% or higher to pass the quiz.

Please take your time viewing and studying this material before you proceed with the quiz.

Objectives

- Define the concept of a preposition and its usage
- Identify the usages of the prepositions in, on and at
- Use the prepositions in, on and at correctly

Prepositions



Prepositions are one of the most important parts of language. They allow us to express our ideas in a clearer way. They demonstrate the relationships between two words or phrases (Douglas & Strumpf 205). A preposition can change the entire meaning of a sentence.

For example:

Ex. 1 Big cities are lively **at** night. ≠ Big cities are lively **until** night.

The most commonly used prepositions in English are **in**, **on** and **at**.

EXAMPLES

Time

- Morning, afternoon, and evening
- Months, weeks, years, decades and centuries
- Seasons

- My father jogs ***in*** the mornings because the temperature is cooler.
- I have not seen my brother ***in*** six months.
- He was born ***in*** the 90s.
- Cherry blossom trees bloom ***in*** the spring.

Places

- A city, a country or a neighborhood
- A complete or partial enclosure (enclosed space)

- He lives ***in*** Jayuya.
- Our group is meeting ***in*** one of the gazebos.
- The photo albums are ***in*** that box.

Modes of Transportation

Cars, trucks, vans, helicopters, submarines, taxis

- Living ***in*** a submarine requires great mental stability.

Prepositions: On

EXAMPLES

Time

- Dates and days (of the week)
 - She was born on April 24, 1999.
 - I take 3 classes on Mondays.
- Holidays
 - He arrives on New Year’s Eve.

Places

- Streets and avenues
 - Meet me on Juan Ponce De León Street.
 - He lives on this avenue.
- A surface
 - Please do not walk on the lawn.

Modes of Transportation

- Trains, boats, animals, planes, skateboards, buses
 - I often see people on horseback around my neighborhood.

EXAMPLES

Time

- A specific time of day
- Night

- I will see you at 3 o'clock.
- The Christmas decorations look prettier at night.

Places

- A complete address
- Showing a specific point or location
- A general area

- The University of Puerto Rico Río Piedras campus is located at 14 Ave. Universidad Ste. 1401.
- Look at that cloud!
- We are at Cantón Mall.
- We are at the park.

Modes of
 Transportation

N/A

N/A

Prepositions

In, **on** and **at** are also used in situations where their meaning is not literal like in the expressions, “She’s **in** love.” or “He has a lot **on** his shoulders.” While these usages may seem confusing at first, they are based on rules.



Consider the following usages and examples:

- She’s **in** love.
- She’s **in** pain
- They vowed to love each other **in** sickness or **in** health.
- He has a lot **on** his shoulders/mind.
- Her research is **in** Nuclear Physics.
- Her research paper was **on** nuclear fusion.

Here the preposition **in** is being used to describe a state of being.

Here the preposition **on** is being used to describe something on a surface however its usage is *metaphorical* as the person does not literally have anything resting on their shoulders or mind.

In the first example the preposition **in** is used to describe the field of study her research is a part of while in the second example the preposition **on** is used to describe the topic her research paper discusses.

References

Strumpf, Michael, and Auriel Douglas. *The Grammar Bible:*

*Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Grammar
but Didn't Know Whom to Ask.* Henry Holt and Company,
2004.

Beare, Kenneth. "Basic English Prepositions of Time and Place: At, In, On, and To."

ThoughtCo. 23 Sept. 2018,

<https://www.thoughtco.com/english-prepositions-at-in-on-to-4165180>

Para finalizar, haga clic sobre el enlace para tomar la prueba y enviar el informe a su profesor(a):

<https://forms.gle/Nz95YWExJ4QcdLbE8>

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