

- Do not use **at, on** or **in** before **next, last, this, every, all, each, some, any** and **one**.

E.g. *She will come back next Monday.*

We went to New York last August.

I will call you this evening.

They play badminton every weekend.

- Do not use **at, on** or **in** before **tomorrow** and **yesterday**.

E.g. *Let's see the movie tomorrow evening.*

We had the meeting yesterday afternoon.

Prepositions of Time: **for** and **since**

for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> when we measure time (seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, years) E.g. <i>We danced for two hours.</i> <i>He has lived in Hong Kong for eight months.</i> <i>She has been doing the research for five years.</i>
since	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with a specific date or time E.g. <i>She has worked here since 1999.</i> <i>He has been waiting in the conference room since 9:30 a.m.</i>

Prepositions of Movement: **to, into, onto, out of, off, towards(s)** and **No Preposition**

to, onto, into	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to express movement towards a place E.g. <i>They always walk to school together.</i> <i>The cat jumped onto the table.</i> <i>She fell into the sea.</i>
towards, towards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> variant spellings of the same preposition of movement E.g. <i>They rushed toward me.</i> <i>Darkness travels towards light, but blindness towards death.</i>
out of, off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to express movement from a place E.g. <i>He came out of the office.</i> <i>Take your feet off the seat.</i>
No preposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with the words home, downtown, uptown, inside, outside, downstairs, upstairs E.g. <i>The boy went upstairs to look for the car.</i> <i>When will you go home?</i> <i>They all went outside to see the sunset.</i>

Prepositions and Adjectives, Nouns, and Verbs

After many adjectives, nouns and verbs, we use particular prepositions. Following are some common examples of these combinations:

Adjective + Preposition

angry*, annoyed*, excited, furious*, happy*, nervous, worried	about
angry*, bad, clever, excited, expert, good, hopeless	at
astonished, amazed, surprised, shocked	at/by
eligible, famous, responsible, notorious, sorry, well known	for
afraid, ashamed, aware, capable, conscious, envious, fond, frightened, full, jealous, made, proud, short, suspicious, tired	of
addicted, engaged, married, similar, sympathetic	to
angry*, annoyed*, bored, disappointed, furious*, happy*, please	with
interested, involved	from/to
keen	in
disqualified	on
*angry at/about sth / with sb	from

*annoyed/ furious/happy about sth / with sb

Noun + Preposition

approval, awareness, cause, example, hatred, love, understanding	of
concern, desire, fondness, hope, grasp, need, reason, request, respect, thirst	for
belief, increase/decrease, rise/fall, interest, success, participation	in
answer, invitation, reaction, reply, solution,	to

Verb + Preposition

account for	depend on	make up
apologize to (sb) / for (sth/sb)	die of	pay for
apply for	differ from	prepare for
believe in	dispose of	rely on
belong to	focus on	search for
benefit from	give up	stem from
bring up	grow up	study for
care about/ for*	insist on	suffer from (a particular illness or physical problem)
coincide with	laugh at / smile at	talk to/with (sb) / about/of (sb/sth)
comply with	listen to	think about/ of*
cope with	look at/ for/ after/ into*	wait for
concentrate on	look forward to	worry about

*care about = think sb/sth is important; care for = look after

Exercise 2 – “at, in, on”



Read the following dialogue and complete the sentences using *at, in* or *on*.

- Peter: The bus is supposed to come (1) _____ 8:20am and it's already 8:30am.
 Jane: I hope it comes soon. I don't want to be late. What time do you have to be (2) _____ class?
 Peter: My first class is (3) _____ 9:00 am, but my professor is never (4) _____ time for class.
 Jane: How lucky! My professor gives us penalty for being late. I usually arrive just (5) _____ time, just before my professor starts taking marks off students who are late.
 Peter: I understand it is always very hard to wake up (6) _____ the morning, especially (7) _____ Mondays.
 Jane: Yes, I know. I tend to study late (8) _____ night and find it very hard to get up the next day. It gets worse (9) _____ the winter.
 Peter: Oh! The bus is finally here. Let's get (10) _____!

Suggested Answers:

(1) at	(2) in	(3) at	(4) on	(5) in	(6) in	(7) on	(8) at
(9) in	(10) on						

Prepositions at, on, and in

Prepositions of **Place and Location**: *at, on, and in*

- In general, we use:
 - * *at* for a POINT
 - * *in* for an ENCLOSED SPACE
 - * *on* for a SURFACE

at	• for specific addresses E.g. <i>Samantha Tse lives at 55 King's Road.</i>
on	• to designate names of streets, avenues, roads, etc. E.g. <i>Her house is on King's Road.</i>

in	• for the names of land areas (towns, counties, states, countries, and continents) E.g. <i>She lives in Kowloon.</i> <i>Kowloon is in Hong Kong.</i> <i>Hong Kong is in Asia.</i>
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• Notice the use of the prepositions of location *at, in* and *on* in these standard expressions:

at	in	on	No Preposition
at home	in a car	on a bus	downstairs
at work	in a taxi	on a train	downtown
	in a helicopter	on a plane	inside
at university / college	in a boat	on a ship	outside
at the office	in a lift (elevator)	on a bicycle/ motorcycle	upstairs
at the top	in the newspaper	on a horse/ elephant	uptown
at the bottom	in the sky	on the radio/ on television	
at the side	in a row	on the left/ right	
at reception	in West Street (e.g. <i>I live in West Street</i> - British English)	on the way	
		on the floor	
at school*	in school*	on the ceiling	
at class*	in (the) class*		
at the library*	in (the) library*		
	in (the) bed*	on the bed*	

* You may sometimes use different prepositions for these locations.

Prepositions of Time: at, on, and in

at	• to designate specific/precise times E.g. <i>The lesson starts at 10:30 a.m.</i> • Also at night, at noon, at lunchtime, at the weekend, at Christmas/Easter, at the same time, at present, at sunrise/sunset, at the moment
on	• to designate days and dates E.g. <i>My sister is coming on Wednesday.</i> E.g. <i>We will have a meeting on the First of February.</i>
in	• for nonspecific times during a day, a month, a season, or a year E.g. <i>He gets up very early in the evening.</i> <i>He will have a long vacation in December.</i> <i>He was born in winter.</i> <i>He started the job in 2009.</i>