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Prepositions of place

I've left my keys at home.



? What has Jess lost? Who finds them?

Answers: Jess has lost her keys. The postman finds them.

- Jess: Hi Chris! I'm **at** work, but I've left my keys **at** home. Could you bring them?
- Chris: Of course. Where are they?
- Jess: I think they're **in** my room. They're probably **in front of** you – **on** the table. I usually put them **next to** the photos.
- Chris: No, they're not there.
- Jess: Can you see the flowers **in** the corner?
- Chris: Yes ...
- Jess: Maybe they're **behind** them ... or **under** some books?
- Chris: Just a minute ... there's somebody **at** the door ... Hello, Jess? The postman found your keys. You left them **in** the door!

Prepositions of place

- 1 We use prepositions of place in front of a noun or a pronoun to say where something or someone is.
on the table, under some books, in front of you, next to that, at home

- 2 Some prepositions of place are *in, at* and *on*.



in the box



at the door



on the table

Use *in* to say something is inside a larger space.

in the box, in the city, in my study

Use *at* with a place or a point.

at the station, at work, at the door

TIP

The shop is at 42 Culver Road.
(*at* = point)
The shop is in Culver Road. (*in* = inside a larger space)

- 3 Note the following uses of the prepositions *at, in* and *on*:

- at*
- + place: A: *Where's Jo?* B: *He's at the doctor's.*
 - the top / the bottom (of):* Look at the exercise **at the top** of the page.
 - the end (of):* The post office is **at the end** of the street.
 - + city / country: *They live in Paris.*
 - a taxi / the car:* Let's go to the station **in a taxi / in the car.**
- in*
- the north / the south / the east / the west:* They live **in the west** of the country.
 - the corner:* Let's sit **in the corner.**
 - the centre:* There are a lot of shops **in the centre** of the town.
 - the top / bottom shelf:* The present's **on the top shelf** of the cupboard.
 - the bus / plane / train:* The passengers are **on the train.**
- on*
- the ground / first / second / top floor:* His apartment is **on the first floor.**
 - the left / the right:* It's the second door **on the left.**
 - TV: There's a good programme **on TV** tonight.

- 4 We don't use *the* after the preposition in some expressions.
at home, at school, at college, in bed

- 5 Some more prepositions of place are: *under, above, below, opposite, in front of, behind, next to, between, outside, near, by* and *inside*.

under the books



above the clouds



below the clouds

opposite the house



in front of him



behind him

next to the photos



between the houses, in / inside the house



near / by the house outside the house

Practice

A Where's Edward? Match the prepositions from the box to each picture.

above at in in front of near next to on opposite



- | | | | | | |
|---|---------|--------------|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | next to | the man | 2 | | the bus stop |
| 3 | | his sister | 4 | | the old man |
| 5 | | his brother | 6 | | the window |
| 7 | | the cupboard | 8 | | TV |

B What's the opposite of ...?

- on the table
- in the north of the island
- at the top of the page
- below the line
- in the shop
- far from me
- in front of the building
- outside the city
- at the beginning of the film

under the table

C Underline the correct option.

- My cousin lives at / in Sydney now.
- Be careful! There's some water in / on the floor.
- There was a clock at / in the corner of the room.
- Look out! There's a car behind / between you.
- I'm going to a party at / in my uncle's tonight.
- The castle is between / in front of the mountains and the sea.
- Are you staying at / by home tonight?
- We drove very slowly. There was a tractor opposite / in front of us.
- They live by / outside the sea.
- I've left my bag at / in the car.

MY TURN!

Answer these questions in your notebook using a preposition from the list on page 146.

- Where do you keep your keys? on the shelf
- Where do you keep your mobile phone?
- You've lost something. Where do you look for it first?
- Where did you meet your best friend?
- Where does your best friend live?
- Where were you born?
- Where do your parents park their car?
- Where are you now?

MY TEST!

Circle the correct option.

- I think I left my bag _____ the bedroom. Can you check? a on b at c in
- I was _____ Lucy's flat yesterday. Maybe I left my glasses there. a at b on c next
- I think I've found your phone. It's _____ the sofa, but I can't reach it and the sofa's too heavy to move.
a outside b between c behind
- I was _____ bed this morning when I found my watch. It was under the pillow. a in b at c in the
- Her house is at the end of this street. It's the last house _____ the left. a at b by c on

My Test answers: 1c 2a 3c 4a 5c