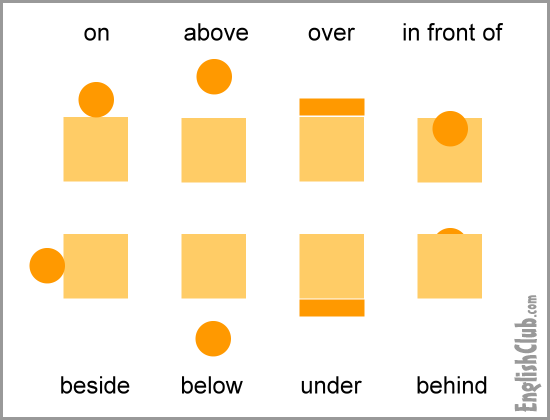
**Prepositions of Place**

Prepositions of place describe the **position** of a person or thing in relation to another person or thing.

Look at this picture:



Now look at these example sentences based on the prepositions in the picture:

There is a cup **on** the table.  
The helicopter hovered **above** the house.  
The police placed a sheet **over** the body.  
He stood **in front of** the door and rang the bell.  
Adam sat **beside** John.  
A small stream runs **below** that bridge.  
He put the key **under** the doormat.  
He put his hands **behind** his back.

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

In general, we use:

* **at** for a POINT
* **in** for an ENCLOSED SPACE
* **on** for a SURFACE

| **at POINT** | **in ENCLOSED SPACE** | **on SURFACE** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| at the corner | in the garden | on the wall |
| at the bus stop | in London | on the ceiling |
| at the door | in France | on the door |
| at the top of the page | in a box | on the cover |
| at the end of the road | in my pocket | on the floor |
| at the entrance | in my wallet | on the carpet |
| at the crossroads | in a building | on the menu |
| at the front desk | in a car | on a page |

Look at these examples:

* The shop is **at** the end of the street.
* My plane stopped **at** Dubai and arrived **in** Cairo two hours late.
* When will you arrive **at** the office?
* Do you work **in** an office?
* I have a meeting **in** New York.
* Do you live **in** Japan?
* The author's name is **on** the cover of the book.
* There are no prices **on** this menu.
* You are standing **on** my foot.
* There was a "no smoking" sign **on** the wall.
* I live **on** the 7th floor **at** 21 Oxford Street **in** London.

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

| **at** | **in** | **on** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| at home | in a car | on a bus |
| at work | in a taxi | on a train |
| at school | in a helicopter | on a plane |
| at university | in a boat | on a ship |
| at college | in a lift (elevator) | on a bicycle, on a motorbike |
| at the top | in the newspaper | on a horse, on an elephant |
| at the bottom | in the sky | on the radio, on television |
| at the side | in a row | on the left, on the right |
| at reception | in Oxford Street | on the way |

**Complete the sentences below with in/at/on**

1.Don’t sit …………… the grass. It’s wet.

2. Look! There are a lot of fish …………… the river.

3. Our house number is 45 – the number is …………… the door.

4. My brother lives …………… Jeddah.

5. I think I heard the doorbell. There’s somebody …………… the door.

6. What have you got …………… your bag.

7. There’s a small park …………… the top of the hill.

8. There are a few shops …………… end of the road.

9. It’s difficult to park …………… the city centre. It’s better to take the bus.

10. I looked at the list of names. My name was ………….. the bottom.

**Answers:**

1. Don’t sit on the grass. It’s wet.

2. Look! There are a lot of fish in the river.

3. Our house number is 45 – the number is on the door.

4. My brother lives in Jeddah.

5. I think I heard the doorbell. There’s somebody at the door.

6. What have you got in your bag.

7. There’s a small park at the top of the hill.

8. There are a few shops at end of the road.

9. It’s difficult to park in the city centre. It’s better to take the bus.

10. I looked at the list of names. My name was at the bottom.

**Prepositions of Time: at, in, on**

We use:

* **at** for a PRECISE TIME
* **in** for MONTHS, YEARS, CENTURIES and LONG PERIODS
* **on** for DAYS and DATES

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **at PRECISE TIME** | **in MONTHS, YEARS, CENTURIES and LONG PERIODS** | **on DAYS and DATES** |
| at 3 o'clock | in May | on Sunday |
| at 10.30am | in summer | on Tuesdays |
| at noon | in the summer | on 6 March |
| at dinnertime | in 1990 | on 25 Dec. 2010 |
| at bedtime | in the 1990s | on National Day |
| at sunrise | in the next century | on Independence Day |
| at sunset | in the Ice Age | on my wedding day |
| at the moment | in the past/future | on New Year's Eve |

**Look at these examples:**

* I have a meeting **at** 9am.
* The shop closes **at** midnight.
* Jane went home **at** lunchtime.
* In England, it often snows **in** December.
* Do you think we will go to Jupiter **in** the future?
* There should be a lot of progress **in** the next century.
* Do you work **on** Mondays?
* Her birthday is **on** 20 November.
* Where will you be **on** New Year's Day?

Notice the use of the preposition of time **at** in the following standard expressions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Expression** | **Example** |
| at night | The stars shine **at night**. |
| at the weekend | I don't usually work **at the weekend**. |
| at the same time | We finished the test **at the same time**. |
| at present | He's not home **at present**. Try later. |

Notice the use of the prepositions of time **in** and **on** in these common expressions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **in** | **on** |
| in the morning | on Tuesday morning |
| in the mornings | on Saturday mornings |
| in the afternoon(s) | on Sunday afternoon(s) |
| in the evening(s) | on Monday evening(s) |

When we say **last, next, every, this** we do not also use **at, in, on**.

* I went to London **last** June. (***not*** in last June)
* He's coming back **next** Tuesday. (***not*** on next Tuesday)
* We'll call you **this** evening. (***not*** in this evening)

(Adapted from Englishclub.com)

**Complete the sentences below with in/at/on**

1. Bye! See you ……………….. Friday.
2. Where were you ……………… 28 February?
3. I got up ……………………. 8 o’clock this morning.
4. My brother got married ……………….. May.
5. I was born ……………. 1995.
6. Let’s meet …………… 8:30pm tonight.
7. I often go away ……………. the weekend.
8. I’m starting my new job …………….. 3 July.
9. I’ll send you the money ……………….. the end of the month.
10. I look at the stars …………….. night.

**Answers:**

1. Bye! See you on Friday.
2. Where were you on 28 February?
3. I got up at 8 o’clock this morning.
4. My brother got married in May.
5. I was born in 1995.
6. Let’s meet at 8:30pm tonight.
7. I often go away at the weekend.
8. I’m starting my new job on 3 July.
9. I’ll send you the money at the end of the month.
10. I look at the stars at night.