

in/at/on (position) 1

A in



in a room
in a building
in a box
etc.



in a garden
in a town
in the city centre
etc.



in a pool
in the sea
in a river
etc.

- There's no-one **in the room** / **in the building** / **in the garden**.
- What do you have **in your hand** / **in your mouth**?
- When we were **in Italy**, we spent a few days **in Venice**.
- 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**.

B at



at the bus stop



at the door



at the roundabout



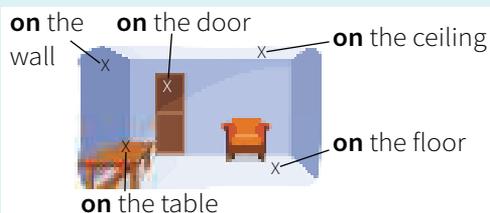
at her desk

- Who is that man standing **at the bus stop** / **at the door** / **at the window**?
- Turn left **at the traffic lights** / **at the next junction** / **at the roundabout** / **at the church**.
- 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)

Compare **in** and **at**:

- There were a lot of people **in the shop**. It was crowded.
Go along this road, then turn left **at the shop**.
- I'll meet you **in the hotel lobby**. (= in the building)
I'll meet you **at the entrance to the hotel**. (= outside the building)

C on



on her nose



on a page



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 ceiling** / **on your nose** / **on your shirt**.
- Did you see the notice **on the wall** / **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 a lake.

Compare **in** and **on**:

- There is some water **in the bottle**.
There is a label **on the bottle**.

on the bottle

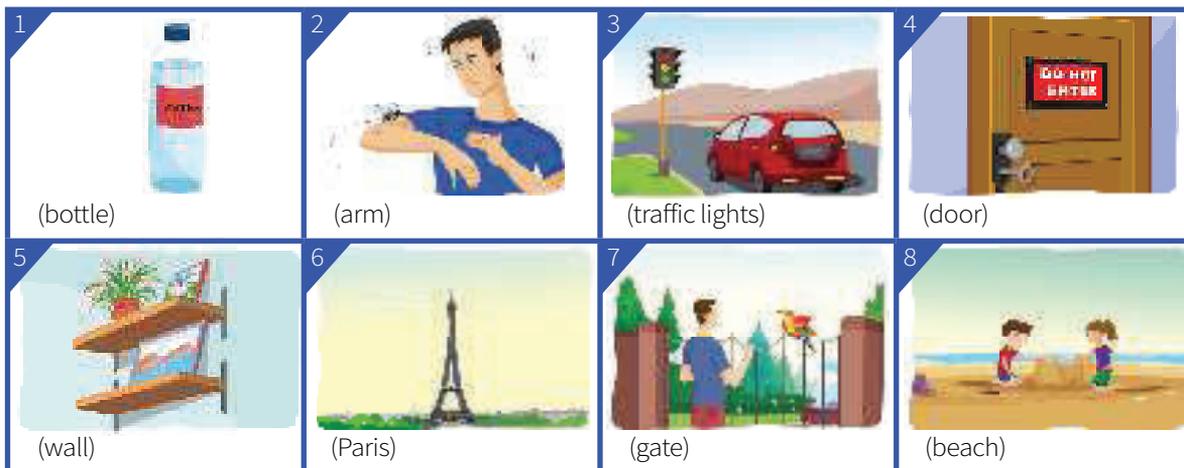


Compare **at** and **on**:

- 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'.

Exercises

123.1 Answer the questions about the pictures. Use **in**, **at** or **on** with the words below the pictures.



- 1 Where's the label? *On the bottle.*
- 2 Where's the fly?
- 3 Where's the car waiting?
- 4 Where's the notice? Where's the key?
- 5 Where are the shelves?
- 6 Where's the Eiffel Tower?
- 7 Where's the man standing? Where's the bird?
- 8 Where are the children playing?

123.2 Complete the sentences. Use **in**, **at** or **on** + the following:

the window **his hand** **the mountains** **that tree**
my guitar **the river** **the island** **junction 14**

- 1 There were some people swimming *in the river*.
- 2 One of the strings is broken.
- 3 Leave the motorway and then turn left.
- 4 He was holding something, but I couldn't see what it was.
- 5 The leaves are a beautiful colour.
- 6 You can go skiing near here. There's plenty of snow.
- 7 There's nobody living It's uninhabited.
- 8 He spends most of the day sitting and looking outside.

123.3 Complete the sentences with **in**, **at** or **on**.

- 1 There was a long queue of people *at* the bus stop.
- 2 Nicola was wearing a silver ring her little finger.
- 3 There was a security guard standing the entrance to the building.
- 4 I wasn't sure whether I had come to the right office. There was no name the door.
- 5 There are plenty of shops and restaurants the town centre.
- 6 You'll find the weather forecast the back page of the newspaper.
- 7 The headquarters of the company are California.
- 8 I wouldn't like an office job. I couldn't spend the whole day sitting a desk.
- 9 The man the police are looking for has a scar his right cheek.
- 10 If you come here by bus, get off the stop after the traffic lights.
- 11 Have you ever been camping? Have you ever slept a tent?
- 12 Emily was sitting the balcony reading a book.
- 13 My brother lives a small village the south-west of England.
- 14 I like that picture hanging the wall the kitchen.