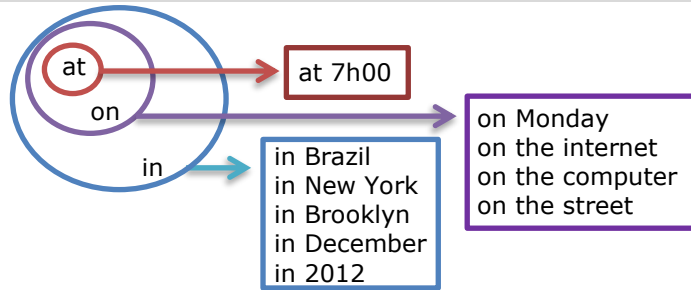


# In, On or At

## 1) Vague or specific



## 2) Place

**In= Inside**



The book is **on** the table (surface)



**B**

### WE USE IN:

To talk about things **in general** (larger area) or when something is **enclosed (inside)**.

#### TIME

##### Months

- *In January*

##### Periods of the Day

- *In the morning*
- *In the evening*  
(but at night)

##### Seasons

- *In the summer*

##### Years

- *In 2004*

#### PLACE

##### Enclosed spaces

- *In the pocket*
- *In the car*
- *In a park*
- *Stuck in traffic*

##### Cities and countries

- *In Tokyo*
- *In Japan*

##### Rooms and buildings

- *In the kitchen*
- *In the supermarket*  
(but on a farm)

**C**

**WE USE ON:** To refer to a position on a **surface**.

- *The book is **on** the table.*

To talk about being physically on public transport:

- *I was **on** the train when she phoned.*

Internet, programs, apps, and computer:

- *You can find this **on** the internet. (but **in** a newspaper / **in** a magazine)*

To talk about a floor in a building:

- *They live **on** the 15th floor!*

#### TIME

##### Dates and days

- *On Monday*
- *On February 14th*  
(but in February)

#### PLACE

##### Surface

- *On the wall*
- *On the table*

##### Transportation

- *On the bus*
- *On a bike*  
(but in a car / taxi)

#### American English:

*On the weekend*

#### British English:

*At the weekend*

**D**

**WE USE AT:** To refer to a **position** or location which we see as a point. It shows an **exact place**.

- *She's waiting **at** the entrance.*
- *He's sitting on his chair **at** his desk.*
- *I work **at** a bank.*

#### TIME

##### Times

- *At 6:00*

#### PLACE

##### In front of

- *At the traffic lights*
- *At her desk*
- *At the door*
- *At the bus stop*

##### Exact position

- *At school*
- *At work*
- *At a party*

**Often is possible to use 'IN' or 'AT' for buildings** (hotels, restaurants):

- *We stayed at a nice hotel. or We stayed in a nice hotel.*

Check the difference between these two sentences.

1) She's **at** the restaurant. - the emphasis is on **her (person)** location.



2) She's **in** the restaurant. - the emphasis is on **building** she is in.



**1) Complete with in, on or at.**

- |                         |                        |                                  |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a) _____ the afternoon. | f) _____ my left.      | k) _____ the wall.               |
| b) _____ the morning.   | g) _____ front of me.  | l) _____ the Internet.           |
| c) _____ night.         | h) _____ South Africa. | m) _____ June.                   |
| d) _____ 10h00.         | i) _____ a bus.        | n) _____ June 23 <sup>rd</sup> . |
| e) _____ the box.       | j) _____ a car.        | o) _____ the world.              |

**2) Choose the correct preposition.**

- a) Rochester is \_\_\_\_\_ the state of New York \_\_\_\_\_ the United States.
- b) She usually arrives \_\_\_\_\_ the morning \_\_\_\_\_ 8 o'clock.
- c) Her friend lives \_\_\_\_\_ Toronto.
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ Saturdays, they often meet friends \_\_\_\_\_ a restaurant.
- e) She usually arrives \_\_\_\_\_ 9h00 \_\_\_\_\_ the evening and leaves \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday morning.
- f) Janet was born \_\_\_\_\_ December 25<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 3 o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ the morning.



**3) Decide which preposition needs to be used.**

- A: What are you doing \_\_\_\_\_ the weekend?
- B: I don't know yet. Maybe I'll go to the cinema \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday.
- A: That's interesting. I haven't been to the cinema \_\_\_\_\_ so many years.
- B: We could go there together \_\_\_\_\_ the afternoon.
- A: That would be great. But I would prefer to go there \_\_\_\_\_ the evening. I am visiting my grandma and grandpa \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday.
- A: That's okay. The film starts \_\_\_\_\_ eight o'clock.
- B: I can pick you up \_\_\_\_\_ half past seven. How long does the film last?
- A: It lasts two hours and forty-five minutes.

**4) Choose the correct preposition.**

- a) My cousin lives \_\_\_\_\_ Australia.
- b) The dog's sleeping \_\_\_\_\_ the carpet.
- c) Were you \_\_\_\_\_ the party too?
- d) I'll read it tonight \_\_\_\_\_ home.
- e) Do you live \_\_\_\_\_ a house or an apartment?
- f) She grew up \_\_\_\_\_ a farm.
- g) I read about it \_\_\_\_\_ the newspaper. (but # on TV)
- h) The boat is \_\_\_\_\_ the sea.
- i) He went for a swim \_\_\_\_\_ the river.
- j) "Where's my hairbrush?" "It's \_\_\_\_\_ the bathroom."
- k) There's a meeting with the project team \_\_\_\_\_ June 23<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the afternoon.
- l) Why are your clothes \_\_\_\_\_ the floor? Please pick them up.
- m) I like to go skiing \_\_\_\_\_ the winter.
- n) My son is waiting for me to pick him up \_\_\_\_\_ the bus stop.
- o) I always keep some extra money \_\_\_\_\_ my bag in case of emergencies.
- p) When you called me, I was \_\_\_\_\_ a taxi \_\_\_\_\_ Main Street.

