

English Grammar – Prepositions of Place (in/on/at)

Prep. Use

Examples

in: inside (*dentro*)

in front of

city/state/country/world

bank/hospital/etc./

(*staying for a long time*)

My keys are **in** my pocket.

The cat is **in** the box.

The cinema is **in front of** the bank.

I live **in** Brazil – the best country **in** the world.

Where is John? He is **in** the hospital – he is very sick.

Where is John? He is **in** the bank – the line is enormous.

on: on top (*em cima*)

right/left

transportation

(*exception: car*)

The book is **on** the table.

The bookshop is **on the right** of the shoe shop.

Where is the bank? It's **on the left**.

John and Mary are **on** the train.

John is **on** the bus.

We are **on** the airplane.

(*John is **in** the car.*)

at: counter/desk/table

work/home/school/office

a party

bank/hospital/etc.

(*visiting or working*)

John is **at** the table.

You can buy a lottery ticket **at** the counter.

John isn't **at work** today. He is **at home**.

John is **at a party**.

Where is John? He is **at** the bank, getting some cash.

Where is John? He is **at** the shopping mall.

Where is John? He is **at** the bank, working.

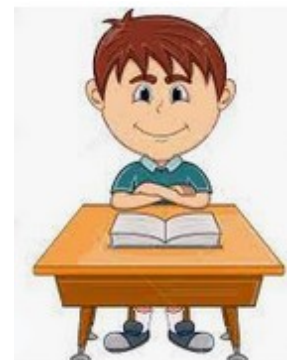
Where is John? He is **at** the hospital – his aunt is very sick.



John is **on** the table.



Pixie and Muffin are **in** the table.



John is **at** the table.

Video suggestions: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9fM9seuk_s (14 mins)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzkbcWh8s4w> (15 mins)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92XBCRYZ1S8> (14 mins)

Exercise 1. Use 'in', 'on' or 'at':

1. A: Where is John? B: He is _____ the hospital, having a heart operation.
2. We are going to the cinema. Our seats are _____ front of the stage.
3. A: Where is the cat? B: It is _____ the car! (*dentro*)
4. A: Where is the cat? B: It is _____ the car! (*em cima*)
5. A: Where is the library? B: It's _____ the right, next to the shoe shop.
6. A: Where is your laptop? B: I think that it's _____ the classroom _____ the table.
7. John is _____ the airplane. He is going to France.
8. A: Where is John? B: He is _____ work now.
9. I like to read _____ my garden.
10. The children are playing _____ the playground.
11. A: Where are the kids? B: They are _____ the mall.
12. A: Where are the kids? B: They are _____ a party.

Exercise 2: <https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/prepositions-of-place-exercise-1.html>