

Prepositions, prepositions in phrases, place adverbs

In, at, on

Use **in** for things enclosed in something else. We use **in** with towns and countries.

Sugar dissolves in water. The cell is found in the upper part of the leaf.
In Ghana in Pisa In the north of Italy

Use **at** with a place.

Ask at the cinema for details. At the point where the two lines meet ...

Use **on** for things on the surface or side of something, and with islands.

Some lichens grow on bare rock. There were no trees on the island.

We generally use **on** for trains, buses, ships and planes, and **in** for cars.

I met an old friend on the train.

Into, out of

Into describes movement in and **out of** is the opposite. In everyday speech, **out** is used instead of **out of**.

Two men came into the bank. Everyone ran out of the burning building.

Out of is also the opposite of **in**.

Mr Smith is out of the building at the moment.

Inside, outside

Inside is used to describe something in a room etc, especially when the speaker is outside.

The police were watching what was happening inside the bank.
Can you stand outside the door, please.

to, from

Use **to** with verbs of movement, change etc, though not with **home**.

Not many children go to school in Burkina Faso. I went home at 6.00

Use **to** and **from** to describe the two points of a movement.

It changes from a liquid to a solid.

below, under, beneath

Below means 'at a lower level' and occurs in phrases such as **below zero**; **below average**; **see below for more information**.

Under can mean 'covered by', as in **under the bed** and **under a pile of books**.

We also use it in these phrases:

Look it up under 'Mammals'. Children under five are admitted free.

Beneath means 'exactly under' and can be used in place of **under**.

We sat beneath / under a tree. Beneath / under a pile of books ...

above, over

Above means at a higher level than something, and not touching it.

Put your hands above your head. There is a forest above the village.

Over is the opposite of **under**, and can mean 'touching or covering'.

They put a blanket over him to keep him warm.

Above and **over** can be used to mean the same thing, especially when something is at a higher level exactly vertically.

They lived in a flat above / over the bank.

preposition + noun + of

at the end of	at the side of	at the beginning of	at the end of
at the front of	at the back of	at the bottom of	at the top of
in front of	in the middle of		

The cinema is **at the end of** the street.
 Two very tall people were sitting **in front of** me.

prepositions as adverbs

Many prepositions are used as adverbs.

Is Susan **in**? (at home) No, she's **out**. (not at home)

From the mountain, we could see a village **far below**.

Other examples: **away** (on holiday); **indoors**; **inside**; **outside**; **underneath**.

Peter is **away** at the moment. He's on a trip abroad. In France, **actually**.

Let's go **indoors** / **inside**. It's getting cold **outside**.

If you can't find it **on top**, look **underneath**.

1 Underline the correct option.

- a More than a thousand people came at / to the match.
- b I'm sorry, but no children beneath / under twelve are allowed.
- c The noise was loud, so I put my hands above / over my ears.
- d Are you going at / to the cinema this evening?
- e There was a bird singing in the tree just outside / out of the window.
- f David didn't feel well while he was in / on the ship.
- g Get out of / from my house, or I'll call the police.
- h Her left leg had to be cut off above / over the knee.
- i David Bowie was born at / in London in 1947.
- j Maria was walking in / into the garden picking flowers.

2 Rewrite each sentence so that it contains the word in capitals.

- a Can you tell me whether Jim is at home? IN
Can you tell me whether Jim is in?
- b Mary has gone to live in a foreign country. ABROAD
- c Shall we go into the house now? INDOORS
- d This snake is red on the top but green on the bottom. UNDERNEATH
- e Don't come in, please. OUTSIDE
- f David has gone on a trip. AWAY
- g Alan lives on the other side of the road. OPPOSITE
- h Sorry, but Sue isn't here at the moment. OUT

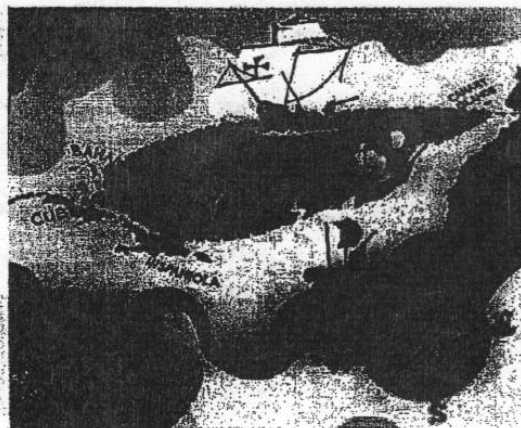
Complete the text with *in, at, on* and *to*.

Many archaeologists had searched for the tombs of Pharaohs a in the Valley of the Kings b in Egypt. Only Howard Carter believed he knew where the tomb might be. He had a map of the valley, and c at he had marked all the excavations until he discovered a space. d on the ground there was a pile of stones and earth from earlier excavations. Some steps were uncovered, and e at the bottom of the steps was a door. f on the door was the symbol of Tutankhamun. Carter had to wait for Lord Carnarvon, who was g at home h in England, to arrive. Carnarvon was paying for the work. When he arrived i at the excavation, after digging some more, Carter and his workers broke through a door and found themselves j in the tomb. k at this point they thought they had failed, because the tomb was empty. Then they found another door, which led to an undisturbed room. There were many beautiful things l on this room, and wonderful paintings m on the walls. Most of the objects from the tomb are now displayed n in a local museum.



4 Complete the sentence with *in, at, on* or *to*.

- a Columbus and his three ships started on the voyage to America in August 1492.
- b They stopped first at one of the Canary Islands.
- c On 12 October they came to the coast of the Bahamas.
- d From there they went to Cuba, where one of the ships, the *Pinto*, left in search of gold on an island called 'Babeque'.
- e Columbus continued with the other two ships and they came to Hispaniola on 5 December.
- f Unfortunately, the flagship *Santa Maria* ran aground on a reef on Christmas Eve, and sank the next day.
- g Columbus built a fort on the shore and left some of his men there, because there was not room for all the men on the tiny *Niña*, the other ship.
- h While he was on his way back to Spain, Columbus found the *Pinto* again.
- i The two ships left together, but were parted by a storm in the North Atlantic.
- j Both ships arrived at Lisbon on 15 March within a few hours of each other.



5 Complete the sentence with a suitable preposition.

- a The uvula is a small piece of flesh that hangs down at the back of your throat.
- b The island of Alcatraz is in the middle of San Francisco Bay.
- c Write your address at the top of the letter on the right-hand side.
- d It was hard to watch the match because there were several tall people standing in front of me.
- e at the end of the play, the whole audience burst into applause.
- f The man was completely bald at the top of his head.
- g Anna felt tired, so she stopped the car on the side of the road and got out.
- h Divers cannot work at the bottom of the sea for very long.