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Prepositions of place are used before a noun or a pronoun. They say *where* someone or something is:

- There is a pen **in** the box.
- Let's meet **at** the beach.
- A beautiful picture is hanging **on** the wall.

Common prepositions of place

There are many prepositions of place with different meanings:



via https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gyBjgBrj94

To talk about place, we often use the prepositions '**in**', '**on**', and '**at**'.

Preposition 'AT'

We use the preposition *at* to talk about the exact point where something happens:

- an exact position or particular place
- events
- place where you are to do something typical (watch a film, study, work)
 - The train arrives **at** the station at 6 o'clock.
 - Yesterday I met Jane **at** the supermarket.
 - Look, someone's standing **at** our door.



• We met yesterday **at** the concert.

Preposition 'IN'

We use the preposition *in* to talk about something that is inside something bigger:

- Mary lives with her parents **in** Canada.
- I've been sitting **in** the library for 2 hours.
- There are many shops in the city center.
- This is the best team **in** the world.

Preposition 'AT'

We use the preposition *at* to talk about something on a surface, in line with something (like a river or road), or attached to something else:

- attached
- next to or along the side of (river)
- used to show that something is in a position above something else and touching it
- left, right
- a floor in a house
- used to show some methods of traveling
- television, radio
 - There are 8 plates **on** the table.
 - The cars are **on** the road.
 - He is wearing a hat **on** his head.
 - This is my favorite program **on** TV.

Other prepositions of place

To describe the exact location of something compared to something else, we use precise prepositions of place. Here is a list of the most common prepositions of place with examples.

ABOVE / OVER / ON TOP OF \rightarrow higher than something else, but not directly over it.

- The clouds are **above** our heads.
- He held the umbrella **over** both of us.
- Your suitcase is **on top of** the wardrobe.



BELOW \rightarrow lower than something else.

• You have a spot just **below** your mouth.

BY, NEXT TO, BESIDE, NEAR \rightarrow close in distance.

- There's a bank **next to** the train station.
- There is a beautiful forest **near** our village.

BETWEEN \rightarrow in or into the space which separates two places, people or objects.

• The town lies halfway **between** Rome and Florence.

BEHIND \rightarrow at the back (of).

• Tom is hiding **behind** that tree.

IN FRONT OF \rightarrow further forward than someone or something else.

• I can see the supermarket **in front of** me.

INSIDE \rightarrow within a container, place or area.

• The pencils are **inside** the box.

OPPOSITE \rightarrow in a position on the other side of a specific area from; facing.

• There is a small bakery **opposite** our house.

UNDER \rightarrow lower than (or covered by) something else.

• The puppy is sitting **under** the table.

Here's a good video from 7ESL showing the meanings of prepositions of place in pictures:

Read more about prepositions:

Prepositions: Overview

Prepositions of Time



Prepositions of Movement