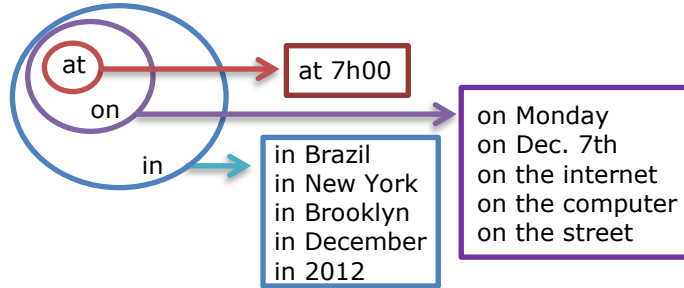


In, On or At

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 rd . |
| 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 25th _____ 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 23rd _____ 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.

