

# Prepositions

# What do prepositions do?



- **Tell Location:** under, above, on, behind
- **Tell Direction:** to, toward, around
- **Introduce a Time:** in, on, at
- **Tell Purpose:** for, about, with
- **Almost always followed by a noun or a pronoun:**

This present is for you.

The book is about George Washington.

Their house is around the corner.

# Some common prepositions:



- About, above, across (from), against, along, among, around, at
- Behind, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, by
- Down, during, except, for, from, in, inside, into
- Near, of, off, on, onto, outside, over, past
- Through, to, toward, under, up, with, without

# In, On, At ... Three Little Words... Three Big Headaches

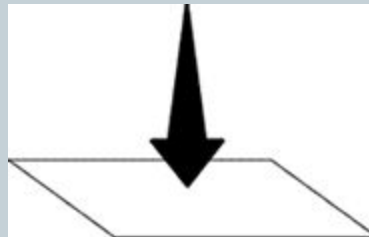


- In, on, at + location

**In (inside)**



**On (on the surface, touching)**



**At** (physically present, but not necessarily inside)



# What is correct? In, on, or at?



- \_\_\_\_\_ room 104
- \_\_\_\_\_ the first floor
- \_\_\_\_\_ MiraCosta College
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mission Avenue
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1831 Mission Avenue
- \_\_\_\_\_ Oceanside
- \_\_\_\_\_ California
- \_\_\_\_\_ the United States
- \_\_\_\_\_ North America
- \_\_\_\_\_ planet Earth
- \_\_\_\_\_ the world
- \_\_\_\_\_ work
- \_\_\_\_\_ church
- \_\_\_\_\_ school
- \_\_\_\_\_ home

# General rules for In, On, At + location



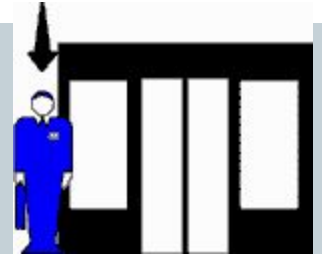
## In +

- A room
- A city
- A state
- A country
- A continent



## On +

- Floor
- Street



## At +

- Buildings
- Events
- Address
- Familiar places (home, school, work)

# In, On, At + Time

## What is correct? In, on, or at?



- \_\_\_\_\_ 6 p.m
- \_\_\_\_\_ Friday
- \_\_\_\_\_ January
- \_\_\_\_\_ Friday, Jan. 13
- \_\_\_\_\_ the morning
- \_\_\_\_\_ night
- \_\_\_\_\_ the evening
- \_\_\_\_\_ midnight
- \_\_\_\_\_ noon
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2006
- \_\_\_\_\_ a few minutes
- \_\_\_\_\_ two days
- \_\_\_\_\_ the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- \_\_\_\_\_ the summer
- \_\_\_\_\_ the weekend

# General rules for In, On, At + location

## In + length of time

- Month
- Year
- Season
- Century

## On + a more specific time

- Day
- Date

## At + most specific point in time

- Clock time



## Tricky ones...



### What is the correct preposition?

- I had a funny dream (with, about) you last night.
- The book was written (for, by) a famous author.
- I like to talk (in, on) the phone.
- I am (in bed, on the bed).
- He is mad (at, about) his girlfriend.
- She is (in, at) the hospital.
- I am (in, at) school.
- Please throw that book (at, to) me.

# A word about phrasal verbs



- **A phrasal verb is a verb + a preposition**
- **Many are idiomatic expressions**
- ***Some examples:***

I put on my shoes. =

They put off studying. =

We put up with her annoying behavior. =

She took off early. =

He got stood up by his blind date. =

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