

Name _____

Tricky Prepositions: IN / ON / AT

The prepositions *in*, *on*, and *at* can be used to indicate _____ and _____.

Notice how they are used in the following situations:

<u>Preposition</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
In	Year, Month: In 1999, In December	Country, State, City: In Japan, In Utah, In Taipei
On	Day, Date: On Saturday, On May 1	Street: On Main Street, On 1st Ave.
At	Time with a specific hour: At 8:00, At 7:30	Address with a specific number: At 815 East Main Street

In many languages, there is only _____ preposition for the above situations. In English there are _____. Just remember that _____ usually indicates the "largest" time or place, and _____ usually indicates the "smallest" or most specific time or place.

Some students like to think of a pyramid like this:

Here's an example:

Person A: Where's your office?

Person B: *in* Taipei, Taiwan. Why? _____

Person A: Really? What part of Taipei?

Person B: It's *on* Chung Shan North Road. Why? _____

Person A: I know that area. Where exactly is it?

Person B: It's *at* 105 Chung Shan North Road, next to the bookstore Why? _____

Here's an example for you to try:

Person C: When is the wedding?

Person D: It's _____ June. Why? _____

Person C: What day?

Person D: It's _____ Saturday, the 25th. Why? _____

Person C: What time?

Person D: It starts _____ 6:00. Why? _____

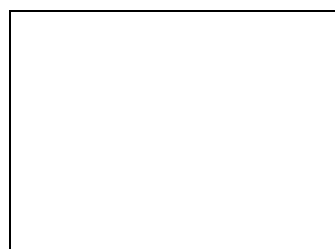
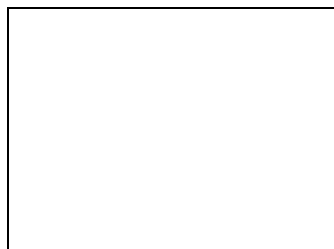
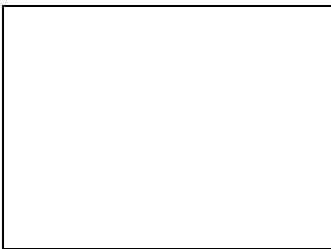
Don't forget the other uses of *in*, *at*, or *on* as _____ words:

Draw a picture to help you understand each.

IN:

AT:

ON:



Some situations use both *in* and *at*.

Use ***at*** when you want to talk about being in a _____.

Examples:

at the swimming pool What does this mean? _____

at the post office/bank What does this mean? _____

at the zoo What does this mean? _____

at school What does this mean? _____

Use ***in*** when you want to talk about being _____.

Examples:

in the swimming pool What does this mean? _____

in the post office/bank What does this mean? _____

in the zoo What does this mean? _____

in the classroom What does this mean? _____

Write 3 example sentences that help show how to apply these rules:

Example: *I am swimming in the pool at the park.*

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

One more silly thing. You may see or use these expressions, which have different meanings, just because you add **the**.

With **the** it means _____

in the school This means _____

in the church This means _____

in the prison This means _____

Without **the** it means _____

in church This means _____

in school This means _____

in prison This means _____

And of course there are just some expressions you have to memorize:

_____ trouble

_____ sale

_____ TV

_____ love

_____ my mind

_____ the morning/evening/afternoon

_____ night

_____ purpose

_____ general

Depend _____

Disappointed _____

_____ time *What does that mean?* _____

_____ time *What does that mean?* _____

Can you think of any others? Keep a list of expressions with *in, at* or *on* that you have to memorize.

Now, test yourself:

Choose *in*, *at*, or *on* for each blank space.

1. The dictionary is _____ the shelf.
2. Let's meet _____ the coffee shop beside the cinema.
3. My parents live _____ a busy town on the east coast of the United States.
4. Sam accidentally dropped the package _____ the floor.
5. I found the article _____ a magazine while I was _____ the dentist's office.
6. He left school and ran away from home _____ the age of sixteen.
7. Jane works _____ a bank _____ Oxford street.
8. They met _____ a jazz concert _____ London one evening.
9. I spent my childhood _____ a small town. It doubt if it's _____ the map.
10. Jane bumped into Sue _____ the hairdresser's _____ the week-end.
11. I met my wife _____ the theater.
12. I spilled my drink _____ the theater.
13. She works _____ the library on Wednesdays.
14. She found a rare coin _____ the library.
15. Dr. Jones works _____ the hospital every day.
16. John was _____ the hospital for a week with a broken leg.
17. Her grandmother will arrive there _____ half-past seven in the morning.
18. I like to swim _____ the beach, not just in the pool.
19. Lina was born _____ a Wednesday.
20. We will go out to dinner _____ Friday night.
21. Put your big toe _____ the water.
22. Did you grow up _____ Mexico or California?
23. I am up at five o'clock _____ the morning.