

61

Prepositions of place

I've left my keys at home.



? What has Jess lost? Who finds them?

Answers: Jess has lost her keys. The postman finds them.

Jess: Hi Chris! I'm **at** work, but I've left my keys **at** home. Could you bring them?
 Chris: Of course. Where are they?
 Jess: I think they're **in** my room. They're probably **in front of** you – **on** the table. I usually put them **next to** the photos.
 Chris: No, they're not there.
 Jess: Can you see the flowers **in** the corner?
 Chris: Yes ...
 Jess: Maybe they're **behind** them ... or **under** some books?
 Chris: Just a minute ... there's somebody **at** the door ... Hello, Jess? The postman found your keys. You left them **in** the door!

Prepositions of place

1 We use prepositions of place in front of a noun or a pronoun to say where something or someone is.
on the table, under some books, in front of you, next to that, at home

2 Some prepositions of place are *in, at* and *on*.



in the box



at the door



on the table

Use *in* to say something is inside a larger space.

in the box, in the city, in my study

Use *at* with a place or a point.

at the station, at work, at the door

TIP

The shop is **at** 42 Culver Road.
 (at = point)
 The shop is **in** Culver Road. (in = inside a larger space)

3 Note the following uses of the prepositions *at, in* and *on*:

at
 + place: A: Where's Jo? B: He's **at the doctor's**.
 the top / the bottom (of): Look **at the exercise at the top** of the page.
 the end (of): The post office is **at the end** of the street.

in
 + city / country: They live **in Paris**.
 a taxi / the car: Let's go to the station **in a taxi / in the car**.
 the north / the south / the east / the west: They live **in the west** of the country.
 the corner: Let's sit **in the corner**.
 the centre: There are a lot of shops **in the centre** of the town.

on
 the top / bottom shelf: The present's **on the top shelf** of the cupboard.
 the bus / plane / train: The passengers are **on the train**.
 the ground / first / second / top floor: His apartment is **on the first floor**.
 the left / the right: It's the second door **on the left**.
 TV: There's a good programme **on TV** tonight.

4 We don't use *the* after the preposition in some expressions.
at home, at school, at college, in bed

5 Some more prepositions of place are: *under, above, below, opposite, in front of, behind, next to, between, outside, near, by* and *inside*.

under the books



above the clouds



below the clouds

opposite the house



in front of him



behind him

next to the photos



between the houses, in / inside the house



near / by the house outside the house

Practice

A Where's Edward? Match the prepositions from the box to each picture.

above at in in front of near next to on opposite



- | | | | | | |
|---|---------|--------------|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | next to | the man | 2 | | the bus stop |
| 3 | | his sister | 4 | | the old man |
| 5 | | his brother | 6 | | the window |
| 7 | | the cupboard | 8 | | TV |

B What's the opposite of ...?

- on the table
- in the north of the island
- at the top of the page
- below the line
- in the shop
- far from me
- in front of the building
- outside the city
- at the beginning of the film

under the table

C Underline the correct option.

- My cousin lives at / in Sydney now.
- Be careful! There's some water in / on the floor.
- There was a clock at / in the corner of the room.
- Look out! There's a car behind / between you.
- I'm going to a party at / in my uncle's tonight.
- The castle is between / in front of the mountains and the sea.
- Are you staying at / by home tonight?
- We drove very slowly. There was a tractor opposite / in front of us.
- They live by / outside the sea.
- I've left my bag at / in the car.

MY TURN!

Answer these questions in your notebook using a preposition from the list on page 146.

- Where do you keep your keys? *on the shelf*
- Where do you keep your mobile phone?
- You've lost something. Where do you look for it first?
- Where did you meet your best friend?
- Where does your best friend live?
- Where were you born?
- Where do your parents park their car?
- Where are you now?

MY TEST!

Circle the correct option.

- I think I left my bag _____ the bedroom. Can you check? a on b at c in
- I was _____ Lucy's flat yesterday. Maybe I left my glasses there. a at b on c next
- I think I've found your phone. It's _____ the sofa, but I can't reach it and the sofa's too heavy to move.
a outside b between c behind
- I was _____ bed this morning when I found my watch. It was under the pillow. a in b at c in the
- Her house is at the end of this street. It's the last house _____ the left. a at b by c on

My Test answers: 1c 2a 3c 4a 5c