

The prepositions; at , on, in, by

1. The preposition “At”:

- **In transportations:** We don't use “at” in transportation.
- **For locations:** It is used to describe where exactly you are or something is, for example; meet me **at** the university.
- **For time:** It says very specific time when we deal with hours and minutes, for example; I need you to be here **at** 10:30

2. The preposition “On”:

- **In transportations:** We use “on” for large vehicles or large ways of traveling such as; **buses, trains, planes or boats.**

❖ Exceptions: **For boats**, if it is a small boat we use in.

For bicycles we use on.

- **For locations:** We use “on” for places that have area, for example; on the table / on the ground.
- **For time:** We use “on” when we are talking about days, for example; we will meet **on** Friday.

3. The preposition “In”:

- **In transportation:** there are only two uses for “in” which are **cars** and **taxies**, for example; I read the newspaper **in** my car.
- **For locations:** we use in to put something inside another thing, for example; put your phone **in** your bag.
- **For time:** we use on when we are talking about longer periods of time such as; weeks, months or years, for example; they will visit us **in** September.

4. The preposition “by”:

- **In transportations:** it is used to describe how someone did or something goes to a particular place. Therefore, we can use it for all vehicles and ways of traveling, for example; they transport goods **by** trains.
- **For locations:** It means close to or near to something or someone, for example; he always parks his car **by** my house.
- **For time:** It is used for the end of a specific time, for example; I need you to finish your work **by** night.

Demonstration of the Use of the Prepositions in Different Cases

On

1. Used to express a surface of something:
 - I put an egg **on** the kitchen table.
 - The paper is **on** my desk.
 - You are standing **on** my foot.
 - There was a "no smoking" sign **on** the wall.
 - Neil Armstrong is the first man to walk **on** the Moon.
 - I wear a ring **on** my finger.
2. Used to specify days and dates:
 - The garbage truck comes **on** Wednesdays.
 - I was born **on** the 14th day of June in 1988.
3. Used to indicate a device or machine, such as a phone or computer:
 - He is **on** the phone right now.
 - She has been **on** the computer since this morning.
 - My favorite movie will be **on** TV tonight.
4. Used to indicate the state of something:
 - Everything in this store is **on** sale.
 - The building is **on** fire.

At

1. Used to point out specific time:
 - I will meet you **at** 12 p.m.
 - The bus will stop here **at** 5:45 p.m.
2. Used to indicate a place:
 - There were hundreds of people **at** the park.
 - We saw a baseball game **at** the stadium.

3. Used to indicate an email address:
 - Please email me at abc@defg.com.
4. Used to indicate an activity:
 - He laughed **at** my acting.
 - I am good **at** drawing a portrait.

In

1. Used for unspecific times during months, seasons, years:
 - **In** the summer, we have a rainy season for three weeks.
 - The new semester will start **in** March.
2. Used to indicate a location or place:
 - She looked me directly **in** the eyes.
 - I am currently staying **in** a hotel.
 - My hometown is Los Angeles, which is **in** California.
3. Used to indicate a shape, color, or size:
 - This painting is mostly **in** blue.
 - The students stood **in** a circle.
 - This jacket comes **in** four different sizes.
4. Used to indicate a belief, opinion, interest, or feeling:
 - I believe **in** the next life.
 - We are not interested **in** gambling.