

Unit 118

In/at/on (position) (2)

a We say that someone is **at** an event. For example: '**at** a party / **at** a concert / **at** a conference / **at** a football match':

- Were there many people **at the party** / **at the meeting**?
- I saw Jack **at the football match** / **at the concert** on Saturday.

b We say:

at home	at university	at the seaside	in bed	on a farm
at work	at a station	at sea (on a voyage)	in hospital	
at school	at an airport		in prison	

- I'll be **at work** until 5.30 but I'll be **at home** all evening.
- Julia is studying medicine **at university**.
- We'll be arriving at 9.30. Can you meet us **at the station**?
- Tom's father is **in hospital**.
- Have you ever worked **on a farm**?

c You can often use **in** or **at** with buildings. You can stay **in a hotel** or **at a hotel**; you can eat **in a restaurant** or **at a restaurant**.

We usually say **at** when we say where an event takes place (for example: a concert, a film, a meeting, a sports event etc.):

- We went to a concert **at the Royal Festival Hall**.
- The meeting took place **at the company's headquarters**.
- 'Where were you last night?' '**At the cinema.**' / '**At the theatre.**'

We say **at** someone's house:

- I was **at Tom's house** last night. (*or* I was **at Tom's** last night.)

We use **in** when we are thinking about the building itself:

- The rooms **in** Tom's house are very small.
- I enjoyed the film but it was very cold **in** the cinema.

d We usually say **in** with towns and villages:

- Tom's parents live **in Nottingham**. (*not* 'at Nottingham')

But you can use **at** when the town or village is a point on a journey:

- Do you know if this train stops **at** Nottingham?
- We stopped **at** a pretty village on the way to London.

e We say **arrive IN** a country or town:

- When did he **arrive in Britain** / **in London**?

We say **arrive AT** with other places (buildings etc.) or events:

- What time did he **arrive at school** / **at work** / **at the hotel** / **at the party**?

We say **arrive home** (without a preposition):

- When did he **arrive home**?

We use **in** when we are thinking about the building itself: