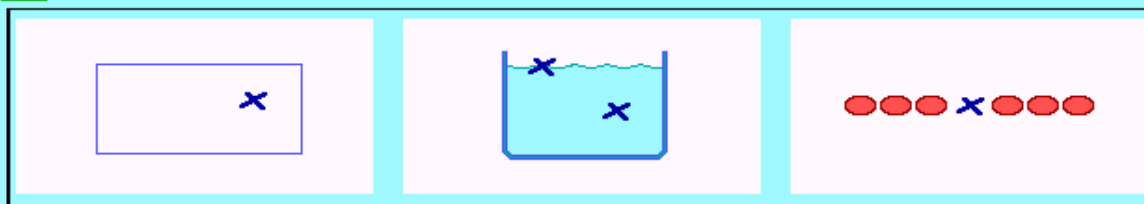


## Unit 117

## In/at/on (position) (1)

**a In** Study these examples:



in a room / in a building  
in a garden / in a park  
in a town / in a country

in the water  
in the sea  
in a river

in a row / in a line  
in a queue

- There's no-one in the room / in the building / in the shop.
- The children are playing in the garden / in the park.
- When we were in Italy, we spent a few days in Venice. (not 'at Venice')
- Robert lives in a small village in the mountains.
- She keeps her money in her bag / in her purse.
- What have you got in your hand / in your mouth?
- Look at that girl swimming in the water / in the sea / in the river!
- When I go to the cinema, I prefer to sit in the front row.
- Have you read this article in the newspaper?

Note that we say:

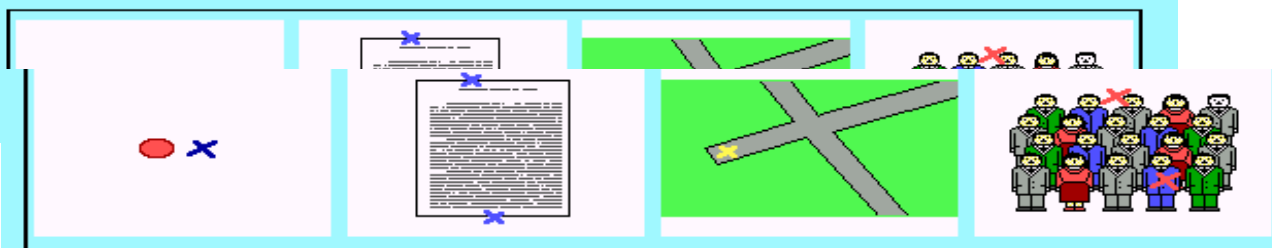
(sit) in an armchair (but 'on a chair') in the street  
in a photograph / in a picture / in a mirror in the sky

- 'Where did you meet Tom?' 'In the street.' (not 'on the street')
- Who is the woman in that photograph? (not 'on that photograph')
- It was a lovely day. There wasn't cloud in the sky.
- Don't sit in that armchair. It's broken.

**b At** Study these examples:

at the top  
(of the page)

at the back



at the bus-stop  
at the door  
at the window

at the bottom  
(of the page)

at the end  
of the street

at the front

- Who is that man standing at the bus-stop / at the door / at the window?
- Turn left at the traffic lights.
- If you leave the hotel, please leave your key at reception.
- Write your name at the top / at the bottom of the page.
- Jack's house is the white one at the end of the street.
- I couldn't see very well because I was standing at the back.  
(See also section e.)

**c On** Study these examples:





- Don't sit **on the floor** / **on the ground** / **on the grass**!
- There's a dirty mark **on the wall** / **on the ceiling** / **on your nose**.
- Have you seen the notice **on the notice-board**?
- There's report of the football match **on page 7** of the newspaper.
- Don't sit **on that chair**. It's broken. (*but 'sit in an armchair'*)

Note that we say:

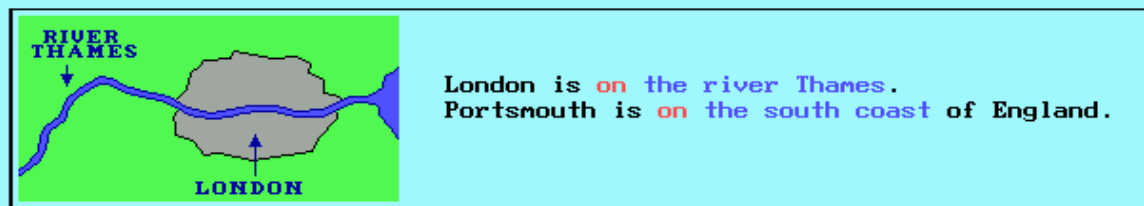
**on the left** / **on the right** (or **on the left-/right-hand side**)  
**on the ground floor** / **on the first floor** / **on the second floor** etc.

- In Britain we drive **on the left**. (or ... **on the left-hand side**)
- Our flat is **on the second floor** of the building.

We use **on** with small islands:

- Tom spent his holidays **on a small island** off the coast of Scotland.

We also say that a place is **on the coast** / **on a river** / **on a road**:



We say that a place is **on the way** to another place:

- We stopped at a pretty village **on the way** to London.

**d** **In/at/on the corner** We say '**in the corner** of a room', but '**at the corner** (or **on the corner**) of a street':

- The television is **in the corner** of the room.
- There is a telephone box **at/on the corner** of the street.

**e** **In/at/on the front**      **In/at/on the back**

We say '**in the front** / **in the back** of a car':

- I was sitting **in the back** (of the car) when we crashed.

We say '**at the front** / **at the back** of a building/hall/cinema/group of people' etc.:

- The garden is **at the back** of the house.
- Let's sit **at the front** (of the cinema). (*but 'in the front row'*)

We say '**on the front** / **on the back** of a letter / piece of paper' etc.:

- Write your name **on the back** of this piece of paper.

Do the exercises and then study **Unit 118**.