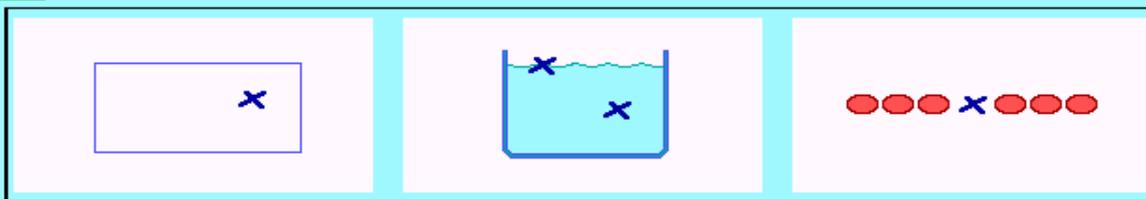


Unit 117

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:

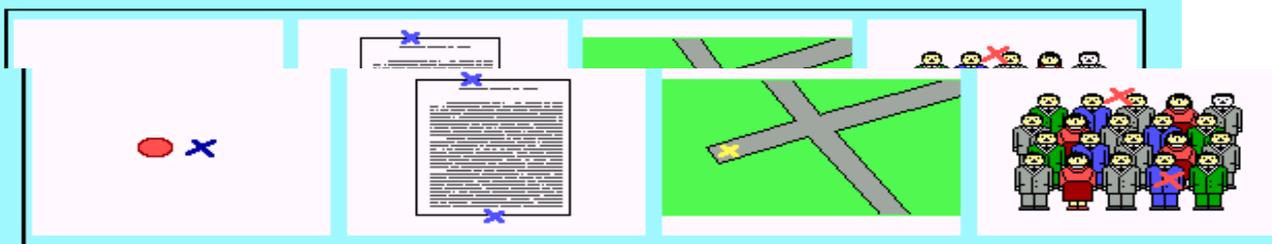
(sit) **in an armchair** (but 'on a chair') **in the street**
in a photograph / **in a picture** / **in a mirror** **in the sky**

- '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:

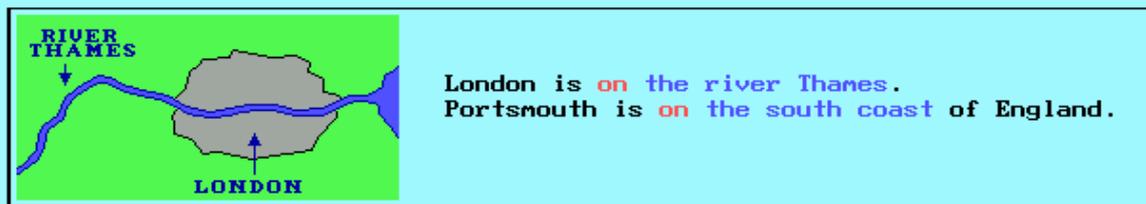
on the left / **on the right** (or **on the left-/right-hand side**)
on the ground floor / **on the first floor** / **on the second floor** etc.

- 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**.