

Prepositions of place

English Grammar · A1

in, on, under

Prepositions of place

in	on	under
inside	a surface	below
<i>in the bag</i>	<i>on the table</i>	<i>under the chair</i>

Prepositions of place: reference card grid

Prepositions of place indicate **where** something is located.

- **in** (inside...), **on** (on top of... / surface), **under** (below...)

The keys are in the bag.

The key is in the bag.

The book is on the table.

The book is on the table.

The cat is under the chair.

The cat is under the chair.

next to, between, behind

- **next to** (beside...), **between** (between...), **behind** (behind...), **in front of** (in front of...)

The shop is next to the bank.

The shop is next to the bank.

She sits between Tom and Sam.

She sits between Tom and Sam.

Note: between means “between two,” and is usually followed by **A and B**: between the door **and** the window.

Common Errors

- × ~~The picture is in the wall.~~ → ✓ The picture is **on** the wall. — Hanging “on” the wall involves surface contact, so use on.
- × ~~I read it on the book.~~ → ✓ ...**in** the book. — Content “inside” a book uses in; people in photos also use **in** the photo.
- × ~~The shop is next the bank.~~ → ✓ next **to** the bank — next to is two words; to cannot be omitted.
- × ~~between the door with the window~~ → ✓ between the door **and** the window — between takes the fixed collocation A and B.