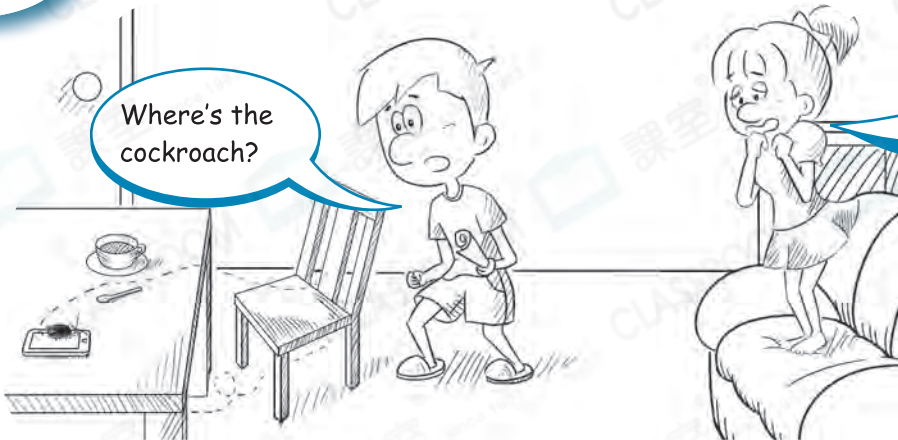


# 19

## Prepositions of location



### Usage

We use prepositions of location to talk about **where** someone or something is. We always put a preposition of location **before a noun**.

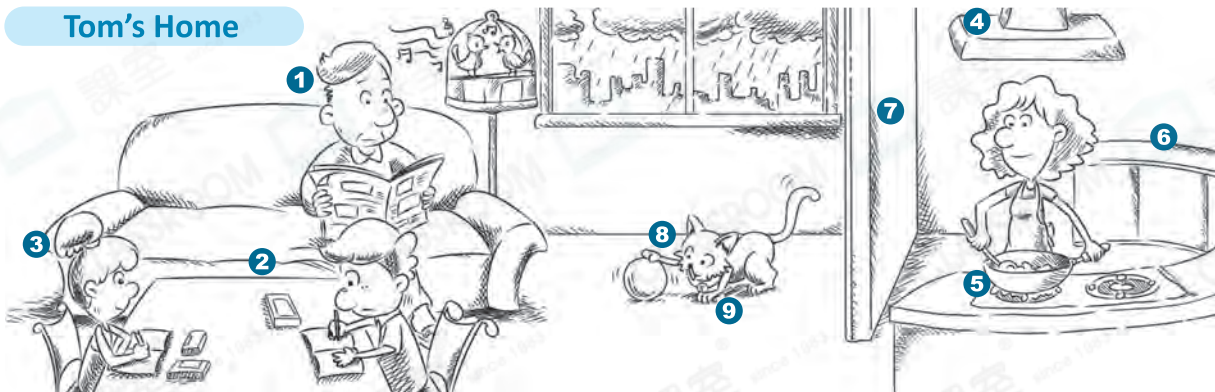
- e.g. They find many comic books **in** Jason's school bag.
- e.g. We have English, PE and Art lessons **at** school.
- e.g. Keep quiet! The teacher is **behind** you!



### Part 1 Common Prepositions of Location

The following are some common prepositions for talking about locations.

#### Tom's Home



- 1 Tom's father is sitting **next to / beside** a birdcage.
- 2 Tom and Sue are doing their homework **in front of** the sofa.
- 3 Sue sits **opposite** Tom.
- 4 In the kitchen, there is a light **above** the stove. Mum is cooking with a wok.
- 5 The wok is **on top of** the stove.
- 6 The cupboard is **behind** Mum.
- 7 There is a wall **between** the kitchen and the sitting room.
- 8 In the sitting room, a kitten is playing **under / below** the window.
- 9 There is a collar **around** its neck.



## Educator's Tips



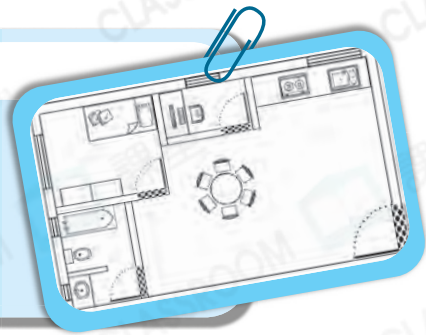
We can use *in / to the ... of* to show locations.

e.g. The dining table is **in the middle of** the house.

e.g. The bathroom is **in the corner of** the house.

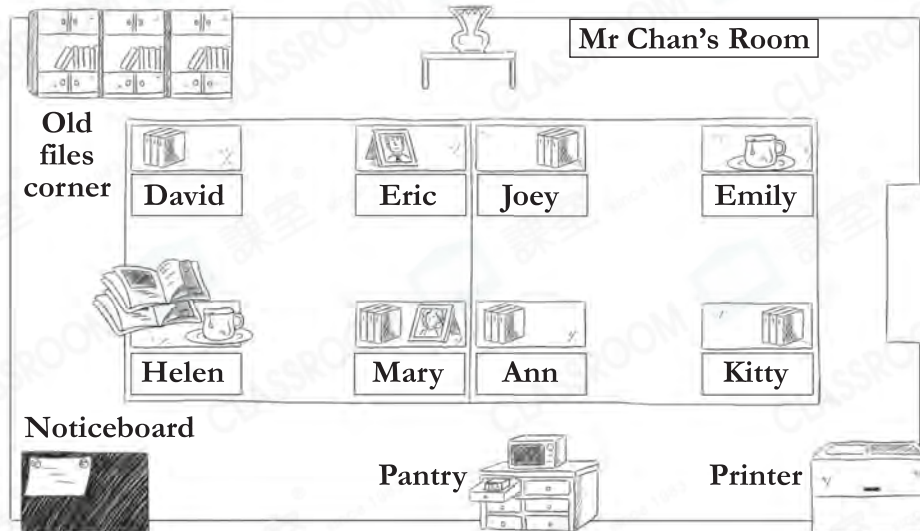
e.g. The kitchen is **to the right of** the study room.

e.g. The bedroom is **to the left of** the study room.



## Exercise 1

David is talking to the new colleague Ann about the office. Look at the map below. Complete their conversation by underlining the correct prepositions in brackets.



David: Let me show you our office, Ann. This is the old files corner. It's **(1)** ( opposite / next to ) the noticeboard. My seat is **(2)** ( in front of / below ) the old files corner. Helen sits **(3)** ( in the corner of / behind ) me. She likes drinking coffee very much. And Eric sits **(4)** ( between / in the middle of ) Joey and me. Mr Chan's room is just **(5)** ( beside / above ) the desks of Joey and Emily. So, speak quietly when you talk to them. The printer is **(6)** ( around / in the corner of ) the office. And the pantry is **(7)** ( to the left of / in the middle of ) it.

Ann: Is there anything I should beware of?

David: Um... Yes! Can you see a vase **(8)** ( above / on top of ) the coffee table? Be careful! It's Mr Chan's favourite vase!



## Part 2 At, In, On

*At, in* and *on* are common prepositions of location that are used in the following ways:

| Preposition | Used with...   | Example   |
|-------------|--|---|
| <b>At</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>particular places</li> <li>particular events</li> <li>addresses / road numbers</li> <li>buildings</li> <li>names of shops</li> <li>certain expressions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>at</b> Disneyland, <b>at</b> The Peak</li> <li><b>at</b> a party, <b>at</b> the meeting</li> <li><b>at</b> 137 King's Road</li> <li><b>at</b> Times Square, <b>at</b> the museum</li> <li><b>at</b> PARKnSHOP, <b>at</b> Marathon Sports</li> <li><b>at</b> home, <b>at</b> school, <b>at</b> work, <b>at</b> the bus stop</li> </ul> |
| <b>In</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enclosed areas (e.g. rooms, buildings)</li> <li>continents, countries, cities, districts and streets</li> <li>certain expressions</li> </ul>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>in</b> the box, <b>in</b> the classroom, <b>in</b> the park, <b>in</b> the river</li> <li><b>in</b> Asia, <b>in</b> the US, <b>in</b> Beijing, <b>in</b> Mongkok, <b>in</b> Temple Street</li> <li><b>in</b> bed, <b>in</b> hospital, <b>in</b> a book, <b>in</b> town</li> </ul>   |
| <b>On</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>surfaces</li> <li>floors</li> <li>islands</li> <li>certain expressions</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>on</b> the shelf, <b>on</b> her face</li> <li><b>on</b> the first floor</li> <li><b>on</b> Lamma Island</li> <li><b>on</b> a plane, <b>on</b> the bus, <b>on</b> TV, <b>on</b> holiday</li> </ul>   |



### Educator's Tips



**We** can use either *at* or *in* for certain places and buildings. However, we use *in* when we want to stress that someone is **inside** a place.

✓ I stayed **at** a luxurious hotel during the trip.

✓ I met a pretty girl **in** a luxurious hotel in Britain.

(we use *in* to stress that the pretty girl and I were **inside** the hotel)

## Exercise 2.1

Fill in the blanks with 'at', 'in' or 'on'.

- The clinic is \_\_\_\_\_ Wan Chai. You can find it \_\_\_\_\_ 52 Jeffrey Road.
- Look at the fish \_\_\_\_\_ this photo. It's living \_\_\_\_\_ a terrible pond!
- We will stay \_\_\_\_\_ Royal Hill Hotel. It's the best hotel \_\_\_\_\_ this island.
- Sorry, Mr Kim isn't \_\_\_\_\_ his office. He's \_\_\_\_\_ a meeting at the moment.

5. Judy is \_\_\_\_\_ the airport. She's going to ride \_\_\_\_\_ a plane to Japan.

6. There are many shops \_\_\_\_\_ this mall. I enjoy shopping \_\_\_\_\_ Amy's Boutique. It is \_\_\_\_\_ the sixth floor.

7. I couldn't find my mobile phone this morning. It wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ my desk. I think I lost it \_\_\_\_\_ school yesterday.



**Sometimes** we may use more than one preposition in a sentence.

Where's Mr Chan sitting?

Where's the window?

e.g. Mr Chan is sitting **beside** the window **in** the VIP lounge.

## Exercise 2.2

Look at the pictures. Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions of location.

1.



There are many cafés (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Paris. Ken is writing a letter (b) \_\_\_\_\_ one of them. Nobody sits (c) \_\_\_\_\_ him.

2.



There was a mat (a) \_\_\_\_\_ the tea table (b) \_\_\_\_\_ the hotel room. Amy was sitting (c) \_\_\_\_\_ the mat.

3.



Mr Li is (a) \_\_\_\_\_ hospital because he was hurt in an accident (b) \_\_\_\_\_ King's Road. There is a bandage (c) \_\_\_\_\_ his leg.

4.



Keith is (a) \_\_\_\_\_ a long queue but there is still a smile (b) \_\_\_\_\_ his face. He is standing (c) \_\_\_\_\_ a man and a woman.

## Unit Recap

Adam is writing a leaflet for the school fun fair. Complete the leaflet with the correct prepositions of location.



### Elite College Fun Fair 20XX

Elite College's fun fair is coming! It's time to check out the shows, games and booths (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the fun fair. Don't miss them!

**Date & Time:** 5<sup>th</sup> May, 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

**Ticket price:** \$10 per person (Tickets are **available**  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_ our school office.)

#### Talent and Magic Shows

The talent and magic shows will be held (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the school hall. You'll surely be amazed by our new stars (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the stage!

#### Language and Science Games

Mini language competitions will be held (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the language rooms (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the third floor. Feeling bored? Go upstairs and join a water rocket experiment (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the top of the building!

#### Booths and Boards

Come and visit our booths and display boards (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the playground. The Green Society will show you the **latest** environmental trends (9) \_\_\_\_\_ other countries.

\*\* Remember to put your ticket into the lucky draw box

(10) \_\_\_\_\_ the school hall and the playground! You will have a chance to win wonderful prizes!



#### Vocabulary:

available (adj.): able to be found or obtained

latest (adj.): most updated