

**In/at/on (Place) (3)****A**

We say that somebody is **in bed, in prison/jail, in the hospital:**

- Mark isn't up yet. He's still in bed.
- Kay's mother is in the hospital.

We say that somebody is **at home / at work:**

- I'll be at work until 5:30, but I'll be at home all evening.

We can also say **be/stay home (without at):**

- You can stop by anytime. I'll be home all evening.

You can be **in or at school/college**. Use **at school/college** to say where someone is:

- Kim is not living at home. She's away at college.

But use **in school/college** to say what someone is doing:

- Amy works at a bank, and her brother is in medical school. (= he's studying medicine)
- Kevin has been in college for five years but still hasn't graduated. (= he's been a student)

**B**

We say that somebody is **at an event (at a party / at a conference, etc.):**

- Were there many people at the party / at the meeting?
- I saw Jack at a baseball game / at a concert last Saturday.

**C**

You can often use **in or at** with buildings. For example, you can eat **in a cafe or at a cafe**. We usually say **at** when we say where an event takes place (for example, a concert, a film, a meeting):

- We went to a concert at Lincoln Center.
- The meeting took place at the company's main office.
- The movie I want to see is showing at the Odeon (movie theater).

We say **at the station / at the airport:**

- Don't meet me at the station. I can get a taxi.

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

- I was at Judy's house last night. *or* I was at Judy's last night.

*Also:* **at the doctor's, at the hairdresser's, etc.**

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

- The rooms in Judy's house are very small. (*not* at Judy's house)
- I enjoyed the movie, but it was very cold in the theater. (*not* at the theater)

**D**

We normally use **in** with cities, towns, and villages:

- Tom's parents live in St. Louis. (*not* at St. Louis)
- The Louvre is a famous art museum in Paris. (*not* at Paris)

But you can use **at or in** when you think of the place as a point or station on a trip:

- Do you know if this train stops at (*or in*) Denver? (= at the Denver station)
- We stopped at (*or in*) a nice town on the way to Denver.

**E**

We usually say **on a bus / on a train / on a plane / on a ship** *but* **in a car / in a taxi:**

- The bus was very full. There were too many people on it.
- George arrived in a taxi.









We say **on a bicycle / on a motorcycle / on a horse:**

- Mary passed me on her bicycle.

For **by bus / by car / by bicycle, etc.**, see Unit 124.

# Exercises

**121.1** Complete the sentences about the pictures. Use *in*, *at*, or *on* with the words below the pictures.

<p>1 AIRPORT CAR RENTALS</p>  <p>(the airport)</p>	<p>2 DAVE</p>  <p>(a train)</p>	<p>3 SUE</p>  <p>(a conference)</p>	<p>4 MATT</p>  <p>(the hospital)</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>JUDY</p> <p>(the hairdresser)</p>	<p>6 MARY</p>  <p>(her bicycle)</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>(New York)</p>	<p>8 Ford Theater</p>  <p>(the Ford Theater)</p>

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. You can rent a car <u>at the airport</u> . | 5. Judy is _____.             |
| 2. Dave is _____.                             | 6. I saw Mary _____.          |
| 3. Sue is _____.                              | 7. We spent a few days _____. |
| 4. Matt is _____.                             | 8. We saw a play _____.       |

**121.2** Complete the sentences. Use *in*, *at*, or *on* + one of the following:

the airport bed the gym the hospital the plane prison school the station

- My train arrives at 11:30. Can you meet me at the station?
- I didn't feel too good when I woke up, so I stayed \_\_\_\_\_.
- Some people are \_\_\_\_\_ for crimes that they did not commit.
- "What does your sister do? Does she have a job?" "No, she's still \_\_\_\_\_."
- I play basketball \_\_\_\_\_ on Friday evenings.
- A friend of mine was seriously injured in an accident yesterday. She's still \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our flight was delayed. We had to wait \_\_\_\_\_ for four hours.
- I enjoyed the flight, but the food \_\_\_\_\_ wasn't very good.

**121.3** Complete these sentences with *in*, *at*, or *on*.

- I didn't see you at the party on Saturday. Where were you?
- It was a very slow train. It stopped \_\_\_\_\_ every station.
- I don't know where my umbrella is. Maybe I left it \_\_\_\_\_ the bus.
- Should we go \_\_\_\_\_ your car or mine?
- The exhibition \_\_\_\_\_ the Museum of Modern Art closed on Saturday.
- We stayed \_\_\_\_\_ a very nice hotel when we were \_\_\_\_\_ Amsterdam.
- There were fifty rooms \_\_\_\_\_ the hotel.
- Tom is sick. He wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ work today. He was \_\_\_\_\_ home \_\_\_\_\_ bed.
- I wasn't in when you called. I was \_\_\_\_\_ my sister's house.
- It's always too hot \_\_\_\_\_ my sister's house. The heat is always on too high.
- I haven't seen Kate for some time. I last saw her \_\_\_\_\_ Dave's wedding.
- Paul lives \_\_\_\_\_ Boston. He's a student \_\_\_\_\_ Boston University.