

On/in/at (Other Uses)

A

On vacation, etc.

We say (be/go) **on vacation / on business / on a trip / on a tour / on a cruise, etc.:**

- Tom's away at the moment. He's **on vacation** in France. (*not* in vacation)
- One day I'd like to go **on a world tour**.

Note that you can also say "go to a place for a vacation / for my vacation / for vacation":

- Tom has gone to France **for a vacation**. (*or* for vacation)
- Where are you going for your vacation next summer?

B

Other expressions with on

on television / on the radio:

- I didn't watch the news **on television**, but I heard it **on the radio**.

on the phone/telephone:

- I've never met her, but I've spoken to her **on the phone**.

(be/go) **on strike / on a diet:**

- There are no trains today. The railroad workers are **on strike**.
- I've put on a lot of weight. I'll have to go **on a diet**.

(be) **on fire:**

- Look! That car is **on fire!**

on the whole (= in general):

- Sometimes I have problems at work, but **on the whole** I enjoy my job.

on purpose (= intentionally):

- I'm sorry. I didn't mean to annoy you. I didn't do it **on purpose**.

C

Expressions with in

in the rain / in the sun (= sunshine) / in the shade / in the dark / in bad weather, etc.:

- We sat **in the shade**. It was too hot to sit **in the sun**.
- Don't go out **in the rain**. Wait until it stops.

(write) **in ink / in pen / in pencil:**

- When you take the exam, you're not allowed to write **in pencil**.

Also: in words, in numbers, in capital letters, etc.:

- Please fill out the form **in capital letters**.

(pay) **in cash:**

- I paid the bill **in cash**. *but* I paid by check / by credit card. (See Unit 124.)

(be/fall) **in love (with somebody):**

- Have you ever been **in love with anybody?**

in my opinion (or your/his/our, etc.):

- **In my opinion**, the movie wasn't very good.

D

At the age of . . . , etc.

We say: **at the age of . . . / at a speed of . . . / at a temperature of . . . , etc.** For example:

- Jill graduated from school at 17. *or* . . . **at the age of 17**.
- The train was traveling at 120 miles an hour. *or* . . . **at a speed of 120 miles an hour**.
- Water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit. *or* . . . **at a temperature of 212 degrees Fahrenheit**.

Exercises

123.1 Complete the sentences using *on* + one of the following:

business a diet fire purpose strike television a tour vacation the whole

1. Look! That car is *on fire* ! Somebody call the fire department.
2. Workers at the factory have gone _____ for better pay and conditions.
3. Soon after we arrived, we were taken _____ of the city.
4. A: I'm going _____ next week.
B: Really? Where? Somewhere nice?
5. I feel lazy this evening. Is there anything worth watching _____ ?
6. I'm sorry. It was an accident. I didn't do it _____ .
7. George has put on a lot of weight recently. I think he should go _____ .
8. Jane's job involves a lot of traveling. She often has to go away _____ .
9. A: How did your exams go?
B: Well, there were some difficult questions, but _____ they were OK.

123.2 Complete the sentences using *in* + one of the following:

capital letters cash cold-weather love my opinion pencil the shade

1. He likes to keep warm, so he doesn't go out much *in cold weather* _____ .
2. Julie never uses a pen. She always writes _____ .
3. They fell _____ almost immediately and were married in a few weeks.
4. Please write your address clearly, preferably _____ .
5. I don't like the sun. I prefer to sit _____ .
6. Ann thought the restaurant was OK, but _____ it wasn't very good.
7. I hardly ever use a credit card or checks. I prefer to pay for things _____ .

123.3 Put in the correct preposition: *on, in, at, or for*.

1. Water boils *at* _____ 212 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. When I was 14, I went _____ a trip to Mexico organized by my school.
3. I wouldn't like his job. He spends most of his time talking _____ the phone.
4. Julia's grandmother died recently _____ the age of 79.
5. Can you turn the light on, please? I don't want to sit _____ the dark.
6. We didn't go _____ vacation last year. We stayed at home.
7. I'm going to Miami _____ a short vacation next month.
8. I won't be here next week. I'll be _____ vacation.
9. He got married _____ 17, which is rather young to get married.
10. There was an interesting program _____ the radio this morning.
11. _____ my opinion, violent movies should not be shown _____ TV.
12. I wouldn't like to go _____ a cruise. I think I'd get bored.
13. I can't eat much. I'm supposed to be _____ a diet.
14. In the United States, young people usually start high school _____ the age of fourteen.
15. There was panic when people realized that the building was _____ fire.
16. The Earth travels around the Sun _____ a speed of 64,000 miles an hour.
17. A: Did you enjoy your vacation?
B: Not every minute, but _____ the whole, yes.
18. When you write a check, you have to write the amount _____ words and numbers.