

English A1 · Prepositions of place

Beginner English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Where is your phone?

in is a box, on is a floor: walls around it take in, feet on it take on.

The big three

Word	The picture	Example
in	inside a container or space	The keys are in my bag.
on	touching the top surface	The book is on the table.
under	below, covered	The cat is under the chair.

Use the evidence

The cat under the chair is not lost. It is judging you, which is different.

Your turn: the horror film

Your turn

The picture is ____ the wall.

- ☐ A. in
- ☐ B. on
- ☐ C. under
- ☐ D. between

The rest of the map

Word	Meaning	Example
next to	beside	I sit next to the window.
behind / in front of	back / facing	The garden is behind the house.
between	one on each side	The bank is between the shop and the café.
near / opposite	close / across from	The café is opposite the bank.

Use the evidence

between needs two things — one side is just standing there.

Your turn: two sides

Your turn

The bank is ____ the shop and the café.

- ☐ A. between
- ☐ B. next to
- ☐ C. opposite
- ☐ D. near

Three zoom levels

at — a pin on the map: at school, at the bus stop, at home.



in — a bigger area: in Beijing, in the classroom.



on — a surface or line: on the wall,
on the second floor, on the left.



at home has no the — home is
a feeling with its own grammar.

Your turn: pick the zoom

Your turn

I study ____ home and my classroom is ____ the second floor.

- A. in ... in
- B. at ... on
- C. on ... at
- D. at ... in

The order flips again

Chinese order

— the place comes before the verb.

English order

The book is on the table — the place comes last.

Say it aloud

The clock is on the wall, above the board.



My bag is under the desk, between my feet and a dream.



The teacher is in front of the class.

The homework is in front of me.



Your partner draws the room from your words; swap roles.

Check yourself

- The keys are in my bag — inside: a box.
- The picture is on the wall — touching the surface.
- The bank is between the shop and the café — two sides make a between.
- I study at home — a point, and no the.