

## In/on/at (other uses)

## A

## In

**in the rain / in the sun / 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 do the exam, you're not allowed to write **in pencil**.

Also (write) **in words / in figures / in capital letters** etc.

- Please write your name **in capital letters**.
- Write the story **in your own words**. (= don't copy somebody else)

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

- They're very happy together. They're **in love**.

in (my) **opinion**

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



the shade

## B

## On

**on TV / on television / on the radio**

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

**on the phone**

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

(be/go) **on strike**

- There are no trains today. The drivers are **on strike**.

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

- 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

**On holiday / on a trip** etc.

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

- I'm going **on holiday** next week.
- Emma's away **on business** at the moment.
- One day I'd like to go **on a world tour**.

You can also say 'go to a place **for a holiday / for my holiday(s)**':

- Steve has gone to France **for a holiday**.

## D

**At the age of ...** etc.

We say **at the age of 16 / at 120 miles an hour / at 100 degrees** etc.:

- Tracy left school **at 16**. or ... **at the age of 16**.
- The train was travelling **at 120 miles an hour**.
- Water boils **at 100 degrees Celsius**.

We are now flying **at a speed** of 800 kilometres an hour and **at an altitude** of 9,000 metres.



# Exercises

**127.1** Complete the sentences using **in** + the following:

**capital letters**    **cold weather**    **love**    **my opinion**  
**pencil**            **~~the rain~~**            **the shade**

- 1 Don't go out in the rain. Wait until it stops.
- 2 Matt likes to keep warm, so he doesn't go out much .....
- 3 If you write ..... and make a mistake, you can rub it out and correct it.
- 4 They fell ..... almost immediately and were married in a few weeks.
- 5 Please write your address clearly, preferably .....
- 6 It's too hot in the sun. I'm going to sit .....
- 7 Amanda thought the restaurant was OK, but ..... it wasn't very good.

**127.2** Complete the sentences using **on** + the following:

**business**            **a diet**            **~~fire~~**            **holiday**            **the phone**  
**purpose**            **strike**            **TV**            **a tour**            **the whole**

- 1 Look! That car is on fire! Somebody call the fire brigade.
- 2 Workers at the factory have gone ..... for better pay and conditions.
- 3 Soon after we arrived, we were taken ..... of the city.
- 4 I feel lazy this evening. Is there anything worth watching ..... ?
- 5 I'm sorry. It was an accident. I didn't do it .....
- 6 Richard has put on a lot of weight recently. I think he should go .....
- 7 Jane's job involves a lot of travelling. She often has to go away .....
- 8 A: I'm going ..... next week.  
B: Where are you going? Somewhere nice?
- 9 A: Is Sarah here?  
B: Yes, but she's ..... at the moment. She won't be long.
- 10 A: How was your exam?  
B: Well, there were some difficult questions, but ..... it was OK.

**127.3** Complete the sentences with **in**, **on** or **at**.

- 1 Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.
- 2 When I was 14, I went ..... a trip to France organised by my school.
- 3 There was panic when people realised that the building was ..... fire.
- 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 ..... holiday last year. We stayed at home.
- 7 I hate driving ..... fog. You can't see anything.
- 8 I won't be here next week. I'll be ..... holiday.
- 9 Technology has developed ..... great speed.
- 10 Alan got married ..... 17, which is rather young to get married.
- 11 I heard an interesting programme ..... the radio this morning.
- 12 ..... my opinion, violent films should not be shown ..... television.
- 13 I wouldn't like to go ..... a cruise. I think I'd get bored.
- 14 I shouldn't eat too much. I'm supposed to be ..... a diet.
- 15 I wouldn't like his job. He spends most of his time talking ..... the phone.
- 16 The earth travels round the sun ..... 107,000 kilometres an hour.
- 17 'Did you enjoy your holiday?' 'Not every minute, but ..... the whole, yes.'
- 18 A lot of houses were damaged ..... the storm last week.