



Chapter 1

My shoes are under the chair.

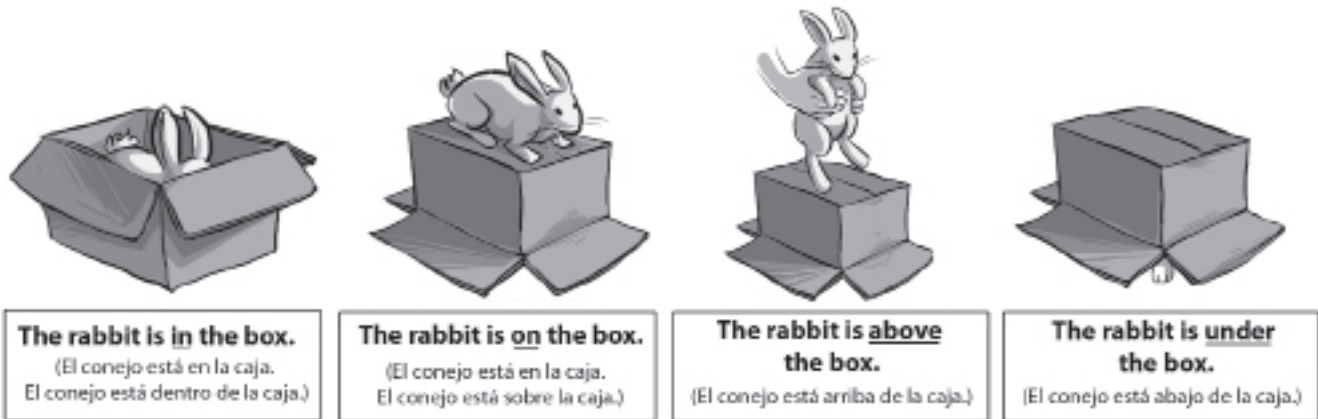
Imagine this situation: You're late for work. Your boss, who speaks only English, calls you on your cell phone to find out where you are. If you can't answer him, you're going to have a problem! In this chapter, you'll learn how to answer questions about where you are and also about where things are at home and on the job.

At the end of this chapter you will be able to

- identify prepositions.
- use prepositions to describe where people and objects are located.
- ask and answer questions about where people and objects are located.

1.1 Introducing Prepositions

A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship between words in a sentence. En, a, entre and sin are all Spanish prepositions. A **preposition of location** or a preposition of place describes where something or someone is located. In this section, you'll learn several prepositions of location. In the following illustrations, each preposition of place is underlined.



Note that **in** and **on** have different meanings. In general, **in** means dentro de and **on** means sobre.

A preposition is a part of speech

To understand English or Spanish grammar, it is very useful to understand *parts of speech*, names that you use to specify how a word is used in a sentence. Here is a summary of the parts of speech you should be familiar with.*

Part of speech	Definition	Examples
<i>noun</i> (<i>sustantivo</i>)	A person, place, animal or thing	teacher (maestra); school (escuela); dog (perro); table (mesa)
<i>pronoun</i> (<i>pronombre</i>)	A word that takes the place of a noun	I (yo); you (usted, tú, ustedes); we (nosotros, nosotras); he (él); she (ella)
<i>adjective</i> (<i>adjetivo</i>)	A word that modifies or describes a noun or pronoun	big (grande, grandes); beautiful (bonito, bonita, bonitos, bonitas)
<i>verb</i> (<i>verbo</i>)	A word that shows action or state of being	is (ser, estar); have (tener); work (trabajar)
<i>preposition</i> (<i>preposición</i>)	A word that shows the relationship between other words in a sentence.	under (abajo de); above (arriba de)

*If you are unclear how to identify nouns, pronouns, and adjectives, read *Gramática del inglés: Paso a paso 1*. We'll talk more about how to identify verbs in Chapter 4.)



1.1.a Directions: One of the three words in each group of words is not a preposition. Cross out the word that is not a preposition. (If you don't know a word, look it up in the dictionary in the back of this book.)

1. ~~boy~~, above, in
2. in, husband, on
3. television, under, above
4. on, above, tired

1.1.b Directions: One of the three words in each group of words is not a noun. Cross out the word that is not a noun. Remember that a *noun* is a person, place, animal or thing.

1. microwave, ~~beautiful~~, house
2. apartment, table, in
3. eggs, book, happy
4. black, dress, house
5. cousin, aunt, at
6. cat, dog, dirty
7. above, coffee, car
8. year, month, are

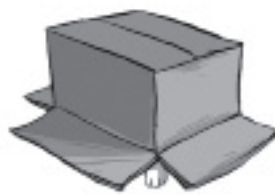
1.1.c Directions: One of the three words in each group of words is not a pronoun. Cross out the word that is not a pronoun. Remember that a *pronoun* is a word that can replace a noun.

1. he, ~~doctor~~, she
2. white, she, it
3. I, store, you
4. ball, it, they
5. they, we, pencil
6. backpack, it, you
7. she, sad, we
8. happy, he, they

1.1.d Directions: One of the three words in each group of words is not an adjective. Cross out the word that is not an adjective. Remember that an *adjective* is a word that describes a noun or pronoun.

1. ~~cashier~~, tired, handsome
2. blue, airplane, purple
3. yellow, happy, it
4. sad, lazy, person
5. beautiful, apple, red
6. old, new, dog
7. above, heavy, thin
8. interesting, good, student

1.1.e Directions: Write the preposition that describes each drawing.

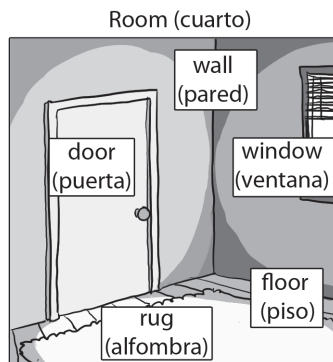
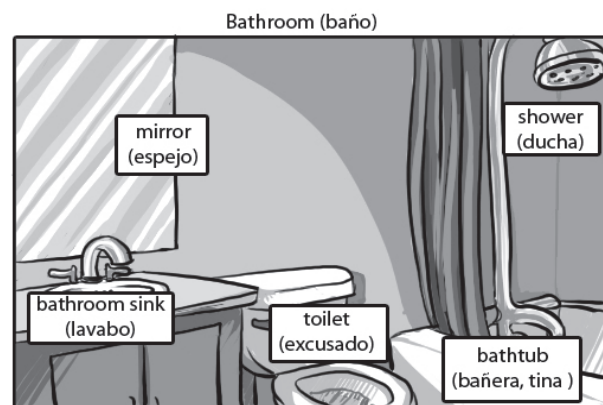
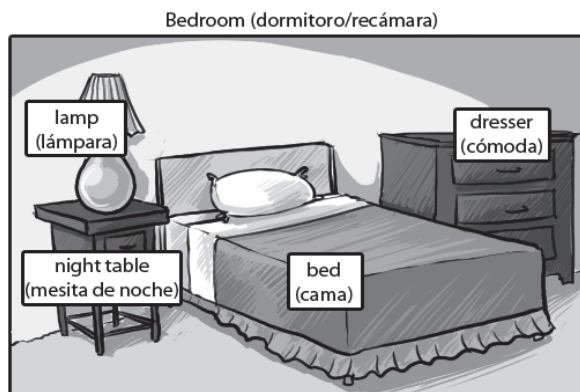
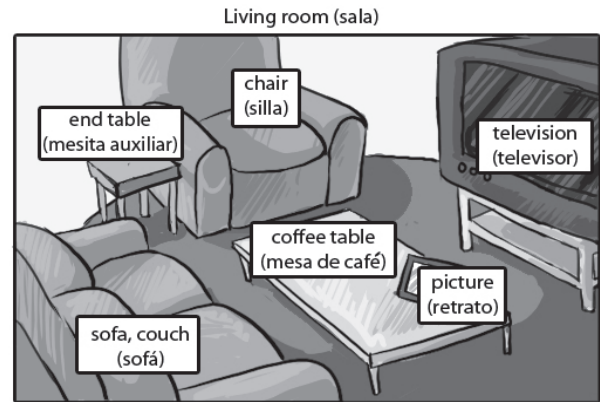
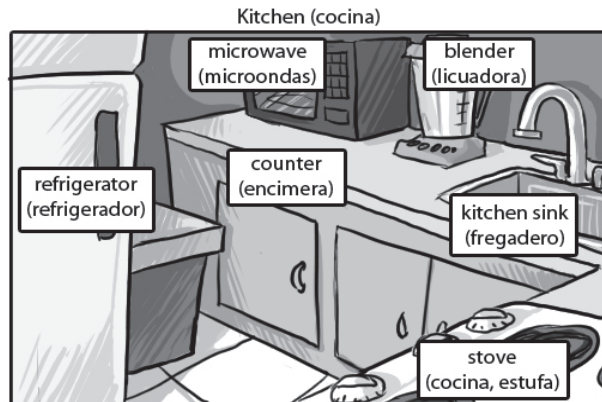


1. The rabbit is on the box.
2. The rabbit is _____ the box.
3. The rabbit is _____ the box.
4. The rabbit is _____ the box.

1.2

Household Vocabulary

You'll often use *prepositions of location* to tell where things are located around your house. The following illustrations show the rooms in a house and what's often found in each one. The dictionary in the back of this book tells you how these words are pronounced. You'll use these words in the exercises on the next page.

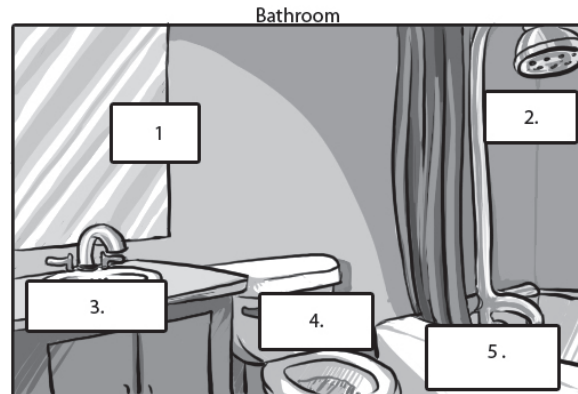
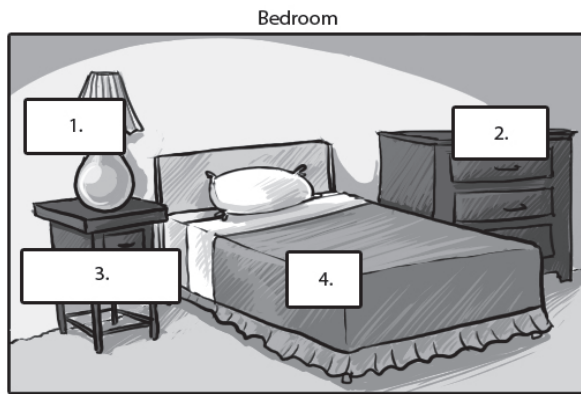
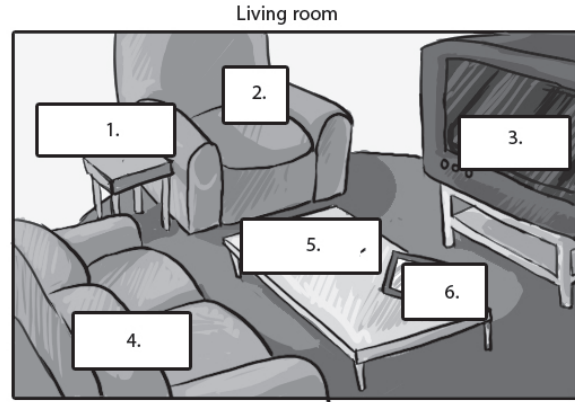
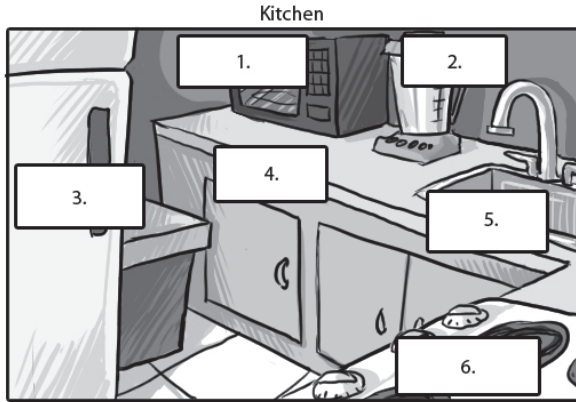


You use the preposition **in** to refer to objects in a room. For example:

- ▶ The apples are **in** the kitchen. (Las manzanas están en la cocina.)
- ▶ The toys are **in** the living room. (Los juguetes están en la sala.)



1.2.a Directions: Identify the items in each picture.



Kitchen

1. microwave
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Living room

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Bedroom

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

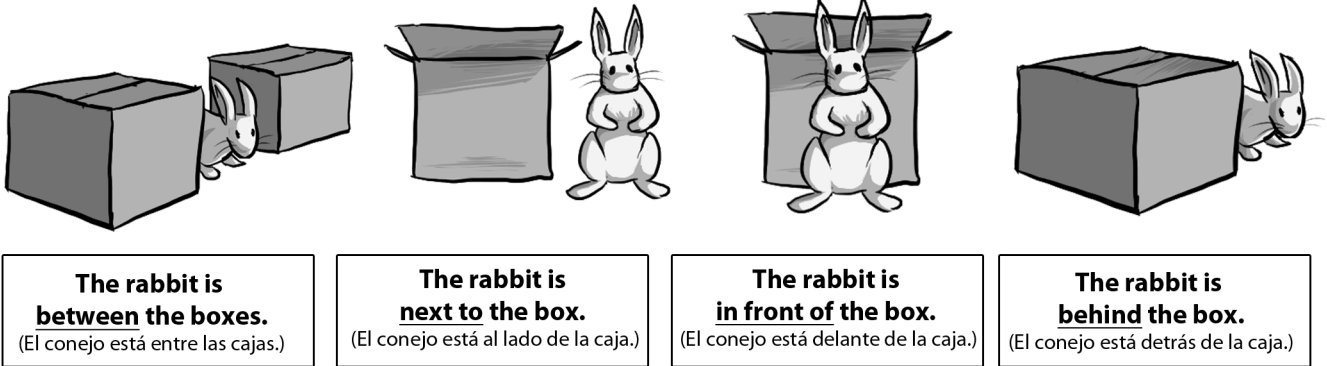
Bathroom

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

1.3

More prepositions of location

Here are a few more prepositions of location to study.



The preposition **between**

In both English and Spanish, the preposition **between** (*entre*) is always followed by two singular nouns or by one plural noun. For example, if a cat is between two boxes, you say

- ▶ The cat is between the boxes. (El gato está entre las cajas.)

If the cat is between a box and a ball, you say

- ▶ The cat is between the box and the ball. (El gato está entre la caja y la pelota.)

It is incorrect to say

- ▶ The cat is ~~between the box~~. (El gato está ~~entre la caja~~.)

Prepositions composed of more than one word

You may have noticed that several prepositions in both English and Spanish are more than one word long. These are sometimes called **compound prepositions**. For example, **next to** is two words; *al lado de* is three words. Regardless of the language, what's important is to include every word of the compound preposition and to make sure you properly separate the words that comprise the compound preposition. Thus, you say

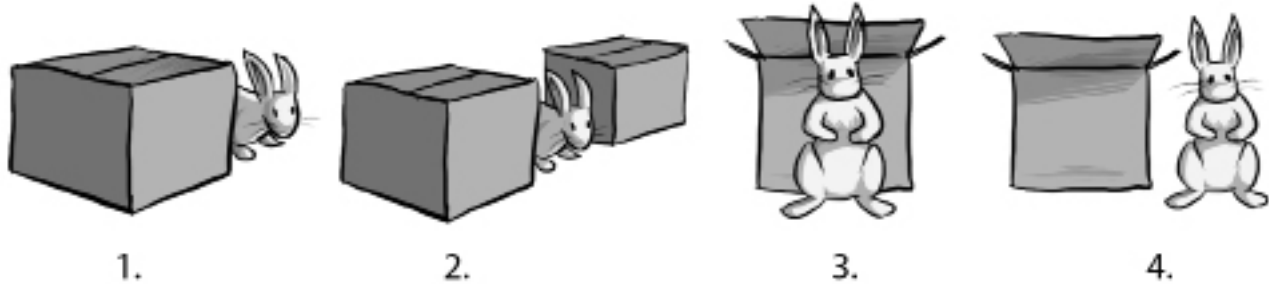
- ▶ The cat is next to the box. (El gato está al lado de la caja.)

It is incorrect to say

- ▶ The cat is ~~next the box~~. / The cat is ~~nexto the box~~.



1.3.a Directions: Write the preposition that describes each drawing.



1. The rabbit is behind the box. 3. The rabbit is _____ the box.
2. The rabbit is _____ the boxes. 4. The rabbit is _____ the box.

1.3.b Directions: One of the sentences in each pair is not a correct sentence. Cross out the incorrect sentence.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1a. The table is in front of the sofa. | 1b. The table is in the sofa. |
| 2a. The couch is between the end tables. | 2b. The couch is between the end table. |
| 3a. I am in the bedroom. | 3b. I am on the bedroom. |
| 4a. The blender is in the counter. | 4b. The blender is on the counter. |
| 5a. She is next to her sister. | 5b. She is next her sister. |
| 6a. I am in front my apartment. | 6b. I am in front of my apartment. |
| 7a. The pencil is on the floor. | 7b. The pencil is in the floor. |
| 8a. The store is between the school. | 8b. The store is between the school and the park. |
| 9a. Your shoes are next the window. | 9b. Your shoes are next to the window. |
| 10a. The oranges are in the kitchen. | 10b. The oranges are on the kitchen. |

1.3.c Directions: Translate these sentences.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Los libros están al lado de la lámpara. | <u> The books are next to the lamp.</u> |
| 2. El cuadro está arriba del sofá. | _____ |
| 3. Mi casa está al lado de la tienda. | _____ |
| 4. Mi tía está en la cocina. | _____ |
| 5. Tu libro está entre el cuaderno y el bolígrafo. | _____ |
| 6. Las sillas están delante de la mesa. | _____ |
| 7. Nuestro carro está delante de la casa. | _____ |

1.4

Where Questions with Objects

Now that you know some prepositions, you're ready to start asking questions about where things are. Study this conversation.



Note the following:

- ▶ The mother uses **Where is** in the first question because she is asking her daughter about her backpack, which is singular.
- ▶ The mother uses **Where are** in the second question because she is asking her daughter about her shoes, which are plural.

Note that the response to the first question is

- ▶ It is on the floor. (Está en el piso.)

It is less common, but also correct, to reply

- ▶ My backpack is on the floor. (Mi mochila está en el piso.)

Questions made with **where** (dónde) and the verb **to be** have this form:

Question word and verb	Rest of the sentence	Translation
Where is	the book?	¿Dónde está el libro?
Where's	the book?	¿Dónde está el libro?
Where are	the books?	¿Dónde están los libros?

Contractions

A *contraction* is a word that is made by joining two words. You can use a contraction to shorten **where is** to **where's**. As you can see from the chart above, the following questions mean the same thing:

- ▶ Where's the book? Where is the book?

You cannot use a contraction to shorten **where are**. For example, you cannot ask,

- ▶ ~~Where're~~ the books?

Your turn!

1.4.a Directions: Look at the pictures. Then, answer the questions using one of the following prepositions: **in, on, under, between, in front of** or **next to**. Note that each line represents one word in the



1. The shoes are under the table.
2. The sock (*calcetín*) is _____ the shoes.
3. The dog is _____ the floor.
4. The bread (*pan*) is _____ the table.
5. The cheese (*queso*) is _____ the bread.
6. The ball is _____ the dog.
7. The broom (*escoba*) is _____ the table.
8. The dog is _____ the living room.

1.4.b Directions: Write a *Where question* before each answer. Don't forget to end each question with a question mark (?).

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>Where is the ball?</u> | The ball is on the floor. |
| 2. _____ | The books are on the table. |
| 3. _____ | The towels (<i>toallas</i>) are in the bathroom. |
| 4. _____ | The socks are on the dresser. |
| 5. _____ | The pizza is in the kitchen. |
| 6. _____ | The students are at the park. |

1.5

Where Questions with People

In this section, you'll learn to ask questions to find out where people are. Read this conversation between a husband and wife speaking on their cell phones.



Note the following:

- ▶ In the first conversation the wife uses the preposition **in** because she's referring to a room, kitchen.
- ▶ In the second conversation she uses the preposition **at** because she's referring to a place in the community.

The table below tells you which prepositions to use when you're specifying locations.

Preposition	Example in English	Example in Spanish
Use at before the name of a place	at the library at the beach at the restaurant at the park at home at work at school at church at Rick's Restaurant at Hoover Park	en la biblioteca en la playa en el restaurante en el parque en casa en el trabajo en la escuela en la iglesia en el restaurante Rick's en el parque Hoover
Use at for a street address	at 313 Grove Street	en el 313 de la calle Grove
Use in before a room, city, state or country	in the kitchen in the office in the classroom in San Francisco in California in Mexico in the United States	en la cocina en la oficina en el aula, en la clase en San Francisco en California en México en los Estados Unidos
Use on for a street name	on Ross Street	en la calle Ross

Notice the following:

- ▶ You never use **the** before the name of a specific place, such as **Rick's Restaurant** or **Hoover Park**. You do use **the** when you are referring to a general location such as **the restaurant** or **the park**.
- ▶ There is no good explanation for why you use **the** before the names of some places and not others. In general, you use **the** before general place names with the exception of **home**, **work**, **school** and **church**.



1.5.a Directions: Complete each sentence using **at, in** or **on**.

1. I am in the bedroom.
2. Laura is _____ home.
3. Jose is _____ New Orleans.
4. The teacher is _____ the classroom.
5. The party is _____ 17 Post Avenue.
6. Carlos is _____ the beach.
7. My sisters are _____ school.
8. Sam is _____ work.
9. Luis is _____ the United States.
10. Carlos is not _____ Chicago.
11. My uncles are _____ Mexico.
12. My house is _____ 222 Pine St.
13. My house is _____ Center Street.
14. Andrew is not _____ the bedroom.
15. Jose is a cook _____ Nick's Restaurant.
16. We are not _____ the park.

1.5.b Directions: One of the sentences in each pair is not a correct sentence. Cross out the incorrect sentence.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1a. Lisa is at the beach. | 1b. Lisa is in the beach. |
| 2a. Marian is in work. | 2b. Marian is at work. |
| 3a. Maria is in the home. | 3b. Maria is at home. |
| 4a. Our teacher is in the classroom. | 4b. Our teacher is at the classroom. |
| 5a. I am in the living room. | 5b. I am at the living room. |
| 6a. The book is in the sofa. | 6b. The book is on the sofa. |
| 7a. My parents are at the work. | 7b. My parents are at work. |
| 8a. My friends are at Pedros Pizza Restaurant. | 8b. My friends are at the Pedros Pizza Restaurant. |
| 9a. Her house is on 8th Ave. | 9b. Her house is in 8th Ave. |
| 10a. I am no at work. | 10b. I am not at work. |
| 11a. The students are at the El Pueblo Market. | 11b. The students are at El Pueblo Market. |
| 12a. We are at the beach. | 12b. We are in the beach. |

1.5.c Directions: Translate these sentences.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Estoy en Chicago. | I am in Chicago. |
| 2. Él está en Perú. | _____ |
| 3. Juana es de Perú. | _____ |
| 4. Mis amigos están en la playa. | _____ |
| 5. Los estudiantes están en la biblioteca. | _____ |
| 6. Tus libros están en la cama. | _____ |
| 7. Los jugu tes están en el piso. | _____ |

Chapter 1 Summary

Prepositions

A *preposition* is a word that shows the relationship between words in a sentence. En, a, entre and sin are all Spanish prepositions. A *preposition of location* describes where something or someone is located. The following are some common prepositions of location:

in	on	above
under	next to	between
in front of	behind/in back of	

Prepositions of location

The table below tells you which prepositions to use when you're specifying locations.

Preposition	Example in English	Example in Spanish
Use at before the name of a place	at the library at the beach at the restaurant at the park at home at work at school at church at Rick's Restaurant at Hoover Park	en la biblioteca en la playa en el restaurante en el parque en casa en el trabajo en la escuela en la iglesia en el restaurante Rick's en el parque Hoover
Use at for a street address	at 313 Grove Street	en el 313 de la calle Grove
Use in before a room, city, state or country	in the kitchen in the office in the classroom in San Francisco in California in Mexico in the United States	en la cocina en la oficina en el aula, en la clase en San Francisco en California en México en los Estados Unidos
Use on for a street name	on Ross Road	en la calle Ross

Where questions

Questions made with **where** (dónde) and the verb **to be** have this form:

Question word	Verb	Rest of the sentence	Translation
Where	is	the book?	¿Dónde está el libro?
Where	are	the books?	¿Dónde están los libros?

More Practice!

P1.a Directions: One of the three words in each group of words is not a preposition. Cross out the word that is not a preposition.

1. ~~boy~~, above, in
 2. in front of, bed, between
 3. she, at, next to
 4. under, tired, behind
 5. in front of, green, between
 6. on, tall, next to
 7. above, they, behind
 8. across from, happy, under
-

P1.b Directions: One of the three words in each group of words is not a noun. Cross out the word that is not a noun.

1. book, ~~beautiful~~, student
 2. shower, nurse, in
 3. school, dog, bad
 4. apartment, new, car
 5. floor, is, bed
 6. kitchen, sofa, dirty
 7. above, sink, teacher
 8. we, pencil, New York
-

P1.c Directions: One of the three words in each group of words is not a pronoun. Cross out the word that is not a pronoun.

1. she, ~~nurse~~, I
 2. kitchen, it, they
 3. I, window, she
 4. they, you, hot
 5. he, I, pencil
 6. sick, they, you
 7. school, I, she
 8. picture, you, we
-

P1.d Directions: One of the three words in each group of words is not an adjective. Cross out the word that is not an adjective.

1. ~~dresser~~, red, new
 2. sick, rabbit, purple
 3. on, happy, green
 4. aunt, expensive, healthy
 5. beautiful, ugly, children
 6. under, handsome, dirty
 7. above, tall, thin
 8. lazy, hardworking, study
-

P1.e Directions: One of the sentences in each pair is not a correct sentence. Cross out the incorrect sentence.

- 1a. ~~The books are next the lamp.~~
 - 1b. The books are next to the lamp.
 - 2a. The students are in the classroom.
 - 2b. The students are on the classroom.
 - 3a. Yvonne is at home.
 - 3b. Yvonne is in the home.
 - 4a. The photos are in front the table.
 - 4b. The photos are in front of the table.
 - 5a. I am at work.
 - 5b. I am at the work.
 - 6a. The dog is between the chairs.
 - 6b. The dog is between the chair.
 - 7a. My wife is at Berkeley Adult School.
 - 7b. My wife is at the Berkeley Adult School.
 - 8a. Susan is at the Benny's Restaurant.
 - 8b. Susan is at Benny's Restaurant.
-

P1.f Directions: Write the preposition that describes each drawing.



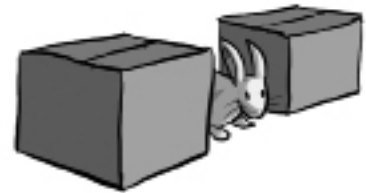
1.



2.



3.



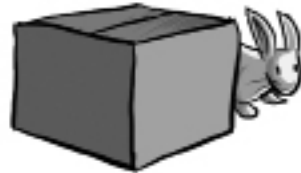
4.



5.



6.



7.



8.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. The rabbit is <u>on</u> the box. | 5. The rabbit is _____ the box. |
| 2. The rabbit is _____ the box. | 6. The rabbit is _____ the box. |
| 3. The rabbit is _____ the box. | 7. The rabbit is _____ the box. |
| 4. The rabbit is _____ the boxes. | 8. The rabbit is _____ the box. |

P1.g Directions: Complete each sentence using **at**, **in**, **on** or **between**.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. I am <u>in</u> Chicago. | 9. Luis is _____ the United States. |
| 2. Adam is _____ Michoacan. | 10. Carlos is not _____ Texas. |
| 3. Jose is _____ work. | 11. Your books are _____ the floor. |
| 4. We are not _____ home. | 12. The photo is _____ the wall. |
| 5. The women are _____ church. | 13. The plates are _____ the table. |
| 6. Caroline is _____ the beach. | 14. My house is not _____ Redwood City. |
| 7. The students are _____ the library. | 15. Jose is _____ Nick's Pizza. |
| 8. Sam is not _____ work. | 16. The boys are _____ Mitchell Park. |

P1.h Directions: Translate the following sentences.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Tus llaves están en la mesa. | <u>Your keys are on the table.</u> |
| 2. Mi mochila está en la cocina. | _____ |
| 3. Samuel está en la iglesia. | _____ |
| 4. Los estudiantes están en la biblioteca. | _____ |
| 5. Tus libros están al lado de la lámpara. | _____ |

P1.i Directions: Read the paragraph and answer the questions. Use complete sentences. Don't use contractions.

Efrain is sad. He is at his apartment but his apartment is empty (*vacio*). His brother is at work. His mother and father are also at work. His sisters are at school. His grandmother is in her bedroom. She is sleeping (*durmiendo*) because she is sick. His grandfather is at the park. Efrain has two dogs. His dogs are with (*con*) his grandfather. Efrain is lonely (*solitario*). He calls his friend. He feels better (*mejor*).

1. Where is Efrain? He is at his apartment.
2. Where is his brother? _____
3. Where are his parents? _____
4. Where are his sisters? _____
5. Where is his grandmother? _____
6. Where is his grandfather? _____
7. Where are his dogs? _____

P1.j Directions: Look at Dulce's busy schedule. Then answer the questions. Use complete sentences. Don't use contractions. Check the table on page 12 to see when you need to use **the** and when you need to omit **the**.

6:00 a.m.	home
7:00 a.m.	Silver Gym
8:00 a.m.	work
9:00 a.m.	work
10:00 a.m.	work
11:00 a.m.	work
12:00 p.m.	Hoppers Restaurant
1:00 p.m.	school
2:00 p.m.	school
3:00 p.m.	school
4:00 p.m.	library
5:00 p.m.	supermarket
6:00 p.m.	home

1. Where is Dulce at 6:00 a.m.? She is at home.
2. Where is Dulce at 7:00 a.m.? _____
3. Where is Dulce at 8:00 a.m.? _____
4. Where is Dulce at 12:00 p.m.? _____
5. Where is Dulce at 1:00 p.m.? _____
6. Where is Dulce at 4:00 p.m.? _____
7. Where is Dulce at 5:00 p.m.? _____
8. Where is Dulce at 6:00 p.m.? _____

