Imaginate 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.*

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

*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 3. television, under, above
2. in, husband, on 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 5. cousin, aunt, at
2. apartment, table, in 6. cat, dog, dirty
3. eggs, book, happy 7. above, coffee, car
4. black, dress, house 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 5. they, we, pencil
2. white, she, it 6. backpack, it, you
3. I, store, you 7. she, sad, we
4. ball, it, they 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 5. beautiful, apple, red
2. blue, airplane, purple 6. old, new, dog
3. yellow, happy, it 7. above, heavy, thin
4. sad, lazy, person 8. interesting, good, student

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

1. The rabbit is _________ the box. 3. The rabbit is _________ the box.
2. The rabbit is _________ the box. 4. The rabbit is _________ the box.
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. 

Bedroom
1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 

Living room
1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 

Bathroom
1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5.
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 ______________ the box.
2. The rabbit is ______________ the boxes.
3. The rabbit is ______________ the box.
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. The books are next to the lamp.
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.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question word and verb</th>
<th>Rest of the sentence</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where is the book?</td>
<td>¿Dónde está el libro?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where are the books?</td>
<td>¿Dónde están los libros?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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*.
- *Where’re the books?*
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 response.

1. The shoes are ______ 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. ___________? The ball is on the floor.
2. ___________? The books are on the table.
3. ___________? The towels (toallas) 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.
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.

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

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 ______ 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.
4. Mis amigos están en la playa.
5. Los estudiantes están en la biblioteca.
6. Tus libros están en la cama.
7. Los juguetes 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:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Example in English</th>
<th>Example in Spanish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in</td>
<td>at the library</td>
<td>en la biblioteca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at the beach</td>
<td>en la playa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at the restaurant</td>
<td>en el restaurante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at the park</td>
<td>en el parque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at home</td>
<td>en casa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at work</td>
<td>en el trabajo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at school</td>
<td>en la escuela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at church</td>
<td>en la iglesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at Rick’s Restaurant</td>
<td>en el restaurante Rick’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at Hoover Park</td>
<td>en el parque Hoover</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prepositions of location**

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

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<td><strong>at</strong> the beach</td>
<td><strong>en la playa</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>at</strong> the restaurant</td>
<td><strong>en el restaurante</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>at</strong> the park</td>
<td><strong>en el parque</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>at</strong> home</td>
<td><strong>en casa</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>en el trabajo</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>en la escuela</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>at</strong> church</td>
<td><strong>en la iglesia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>at</strong> Rick’s Restaurant</td>
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<td><strong>in</strong> the kitchen</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>in</strong> the office</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>in</strong> the classroom</td>
<td><strong>en el aula, en la clase</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>in</strong> San Francisco</td>
<td><strong>en San Francisco</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>in</strong> California</td>
<td><strong>en California</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>in</strong> Mexico</td>
<td><strong>en México</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>in</strong> the United States</td>
<td><strong>en los Estados Unidos</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Where questions**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question word</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Rest of the sentence</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>the book?</td>
<td>¿Dónde está el libro?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>are</td>
<td>the books?</td>
<td>¿Dónde están los libros?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. The rabbit is __________________ the box.
2. The rabbit is __________________ the box.
3. The rabbit is __________________ the box.
4. The rabbit is __________________ the boxes.
5. The rabbit is __________________ the box.
6. The rabbit is __________________ the box.
7. The rabbit is __________________ the box.
8. The rabbit is __________________ the box.

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

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

**P1.h Directions:** Translate the following sentences.

1. Tus llaves están en la mesa.
   Your keys are on the table.
2. Mi mochila está en la cocina.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 a.m.</td>
<td>home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Silver Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Hoppers Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>supermarket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.? _____________________________