



SPECIAL NOTES

SN MC 1-2

PREPOSITIONS

THE REVIEW QUIZ

- There are some items on the quiz that were not given as examples in the previous class and may not have come up when you were going over AT, ON & IN. This is partly to encourage students to apply what they have learned to new situations. For example: *in her forties* could be deduced from the information already supplied (in the last class) as well as *Christmas Eve*. I have found this technique to be very rewarding at different levels. It's also good in motivating the brighter students who easily get bored but like challenges. Most of the items are repeated or presented with minor changes (such as *the twentieth century vs the XX century*). Rather than presenting all the information at once, you can dish it out in more manageable chunks, and provide opportunities to review and build onto it over a number of classes. It should also keep the complaints down expressed by students (both adults and children) when they say that 'they've already done that'.

- Here are a few more items you may want to point out:

on Saturday morning - - Here it's confusing. Is the preposition ON to collocate with a day or is it IN to complete *in the morning*? Think of the day being the stronger influence of the two, making ON the correct choice.

on the fourth floor - - One way to approach looking at the meaning is by considering *the fourth floor* as an intermediate location. It is not specific enough to warrant the use of AT nor is it big enough in area to use IN.

- - Another interpretation is to think of a person having contact with the surface area of the floor. (This idea will be looked at later in today's class.)

at work / school - - a specific place (You could meet in that place or in front of it, for example.)

in the building - - within the building itself

at home - - without the possessive adjective

NOTE: I am (at) home. If the verb is 'be', the preposition AT is optional.

We will finish it at home. It is not possible to eliminate AT with other verbs.

in my home - - you can use a possessive adjective (my, your, our, etc) but the preposition is IN.

- Note the pronunciation for *402 Princess Street*, where the number is spoken as four-oh-two.

REFERENCES

I would like to express my gratitude to the authors of two books helped me with looking at prepositions (among other things) in a better light:

- *Longman English Grammar* by LG Alexander, published by Longman in 1988 and
- *A Communicative Grammar of English* by G Leech and J Svartvik, published by Longman in 1986