Prepositions of place and movement

- In, on and at are used to talk about places:
 - ► We use in with enclosed spaces (e.g. rooms, buildings) and limited areas (e.g. towns, parks, countries, continents): in my pocket in her car in Germany
 - ► We use **on** with surfaces (e.g. walls, floors, shelves) and lines (e.g. paths, coasts, the equator):

on the grass on the sea on the line on the third floor

- ► We use at with a point (e.g. at the bus stop), and at with a building, when we mean either inside or outside:
 - A: Let's meet at the cinema.
 - B: OK. Shall we meet in the cinema itself or on the pavement outside?
- 2 Look at the illustration and read the sentences:



There is a woman in the phone box.
There are people outside the cinema.
The people are on the pavement.
There is a clock above the cinema entrance.
The cinema entrance is under the clock.
The bank is next to/beside the cinema.
The phone box is opposite the cinema.
The bank is between the cinema and the café.

There is a hill behind the town. The car is in front of the bank.

3 Into, **onto** and **to** are used to talk about movement:

We moved the chairs **into** my bedroom. The actor ran **onto** the stage. They walked **to** the next town.

The opposites are **out of**, off and **from**:

We moved the chairs **out of** my bedroom.

The actor ran off the stage.

We drove **from** London to Edinburgh.

Here are other prepositions of movement:

They ran across the field to the road.

Jim cycled along the road to the next town.

I walked up the hill and ran down the other side.

The bus went **past** the bus stop without stopping.

The train goes through three tunnels.

Practice

- A The sentences below describe the picture. Look at the picture and change the underlined words which are wrong. Tick (✓) the underlined words which are correct.
 - ► There is a TV <u>under on</u> the table.
 - ► There is a dog on ✓ the floor.
 - 1 The dog is <u>behind</u> the table.
 - 2 The cat is <u>next to</u> the flowers.
 - 3 The keys are next to the flowers.
 - 4 The flowers are in the vase.
 - 5 There is a big book in front of the flowers.
 - 6 There is a picture <u>under</u> the table.
 - 7 The cat is <u>above</u> the table.
 - 8 There is a bird on a cage.



| B Put in, on or at in the gap | В | Put in, | on or | at in | the | gaps |
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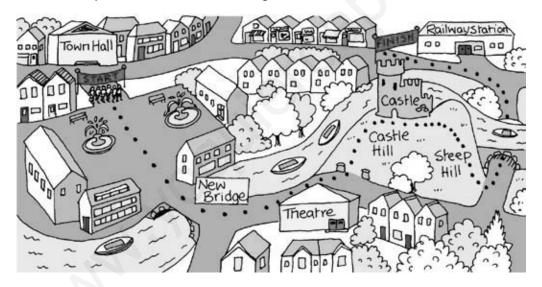
- ▶ Peter lives in..... Turkey.
- 1 There were some beautiful pictures the walls of their sitting room.
- 2 The children are playing the grass the park.
- 3 Does this bus stop the railway station?
- 4 I live in a flat the fifth floor.
- 5 Ecuador is South America; it lies the equator.
- 6 There is a queue of people the bus stop.

C Put the words in the box in the gaps.

into (x3) onto (x2) to out of off

- ▶ The march started in the park. From there we marched to the Town Hall.
- 1 The tiger escaped from its cage and jumped the lake. It took a long time to get it its cage.
- 2 Stupidly, Simon drove his car the beach and then he couldn't move it, because the wheels sank the sand. In the end he needed eight people to push it the beach and back the road.

D Look at this picture of a town showing the route for a race.



Now fill the gaps using the words in the box.