

In or on? (transport) ☆☆☆

(☆☆ = Basic ☆☆☆ = Intermediate ☆☆☆☆ = Advanced)

Grammar Bite

(read through this)

This is another case of THE SWITCH  (See below for definitions of words in capitals)

There's a difference between *in* and *on* here:



Sam got *ON* the car
Susan's getting *in* the car

In and *on* are the same here:



Jim is getting *in* the bus (or train)
Jim is getting *on* the bus (or train)
(same, but see advanced note)

On is OK here, but *in* is not:



Ahmed is getting *ON* his bike.
He's getting ~~*in*~~ his bike

Bike is a COLLOQUIAL word, with two meanings:
1 bicycle, 2 motorcycle

Worksheet

(do this)

Fill each blank with one of the words given:

in on in/on

- 1 He put his bag ____ the roof of the car.
- 2 Then he got ____ the car and drove away.
- 3 Mike got ____ the train at Perth.
- 4 He climbed ____ his motorbike and left.
- 5 She got ____ a taxi and shut the door.

in on in/on

- 6 She jumped ____ her horse and rode off.
 - 7 She was ____ the bus waiting for Maria.
 - 8 "Here's the car!" "OK, get ____!"
 - 9 Don't put your bag ____ top of the car.
 - 10 I was sitting ____ the car when he came.
- (answers on grammarbites.co.uk website)

Advanced

- 1 *In* and *into*  (SWITCH)

Movement

He got *in* the car. He got *in*.
He got *into* the car. He got ~~*in*~~.

Position

He is *in* the car.
He is ~~*in*~~ the car.

(see also GB 61)

- 2 There's a small difference between *in the bus* and *on the bus*.

In a bus is about where you **are**: you're inside something.

On a bus is about where you're **going**: you're on the way, on a journey.

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