

In or into and on or onto? 1/2 (See also GB 62)

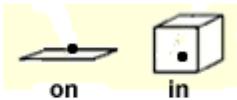
( = Basic   = Intermediate   = Advanced)

Grammar Bite (read this)

There's a difference between when things stay still (position) and when they move (movement)

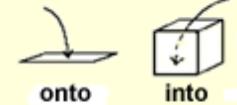
Half true

Position



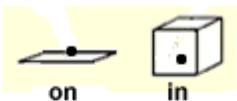
This is true up to a point, and perhaps OK for beginners. But the real truth is more complex...

Movement



More true

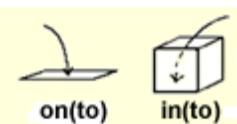
1 **Position.** Only *in* and *on*:



She left her watch on the table.
She left her watch in the top drawer.



2 **Movement.** *In* or *into* and *on* or *onto* if the word has an object, and if it is clear that there is movement from one place to another:



She put her watch on / onto the table.
She put her watch in / into the drawer.

In both these sentences, there's an object (table, drawer), and it's clear that there is movement.

Worksheet (do this)

Insert one of these words in each blank:

in in(to) on on(to)

- 1 "Where are the keys?" "They're _____ my pocket."
- 2 He took his shoes off and put them _____ the cupboard
- 3 He put the suitcases _____ the roof of the car.
- 4 "Where's the dog?" "She's gone _____ the garden."
- 5 "Where are the keys?" "There, _____ the shelf."

in in(to) on on(to)

- 6 I left my laptop _____ top of the piano.
- 7 I left my laptop _____ the car.
- 8 She walked _____ the room and sat down.
- 9 "You can put your bag _____ the pile over there."
- 10 "Your blouse is lying _____ the bed."

Advanced

But what happens if:

- a) there's **no** object, or
- b) the movement from one place to another is **not** clear?

See GB 62 for more!

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