

In or into and on or onto? 2/2

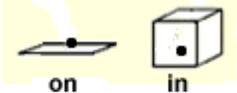
(★ = Basic ★★ = Intermediate ★★★ = Advanced)

Grammar Bite

(read this)

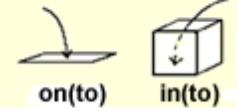
As we said last week, there's a difference between when things stay still (position) and when they move (movement):

Position



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

Movement



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

drawer.

It's fine to use either as long as it's clear (it usually is) that there's movement from one place to another

Three more points

1 Movement

Occasionally we have to select between *in* and *into*, to show if there is movement from one place to another or not:



She drove her car in town
(She was already in the town)



She drove her car into town
(She was outside the town, and entered it)

2 No object

Only *in* and *on* (even for movement):

After the car stopped, he opened the door and got **in**. (i~~x~~o)

After the train stopped, he opened the door and got **on**. (o~~x~~o)

3 A special case: *be into*

We can use *be into* in a COLLOQUIAL sense to mean "very interested in":

She's into football.

He's really into art.

Worksheet

(do this)

Insert one of these words in each blank:

in in(to) into on on(to)

- 1 He put his leather jacket _____.
 - 2 He put his leather jacket _____ the cupboard and closed the door.
 - 3 She walked _____ and sat down.
 - 4 She's really _____ dress design, and thinks about little else.
 - 5 Put your work _____ the pile with the others
- in(to) into on(to) onto***
- 6 He drove _____ a space in the car park.
 - 7 She put her bag _____ the back seat of the car.
 - 8 Jack is _____ cars big time, it's all he thinks about.
 - 9 You can put your laptop _____ the big suitcase.
 - 10 He climbed up the side of the house and _____ the roof.

On and onto

Very occasionally, we need to distinguish between *on* and *onto*:

He drove his car onto the ferry.

"On the ferry" sounds wrong in this sentence, as if he were driving his car from one place to another on the ferry.

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