

Prepositions of movement: to, into, through and across

CEFR A2-B1 · 20 questions · A4 / US Letter

Movement prepositions answer the question "which way?". Into and out of are about entering and leaving, through and across are about crossing, and to is the destination.

The rule

To and towards: the destination

- To marks the destination: "We walked to the station."
- Towards suggests direction only, not arrival: "She walked towards the door."
- Do not use to before home: "I went home", not "I went to home".
- Arrive takes in or at, never to: "arrive in London", "arrive at the station".

Into and out of: entering and leaving

- Into means movement to the inside of something: "She walked into the room."
- Out of means movement from inside to outside: "He ran out of the building."
- In and out describe position; into and out of show the movement.
- In everyday speech, in is sometimes used for into, but into is clearer.

Through, across and along

- Through means inside something and out the other side: "We drove through the tunnel."
- Across means from one side to the other on a surface: "She swam across the river."
- Along means following a line: "We walked along the beach."
- Past means going by something without stopping: "We drove past the school."

Over, under and around

- Over means above and to the other side: "The bird flew over the house."
- Under means directly below: "The cat ran under the table."
- Around means in a circle or from place to place: "We walked around the lake."
- Onto means movement to a surface: "She climbed onto the roof."

Movement verbs and direction words

- Come and go take to for a destination: "go to work".
- Arrive takes in for cities and countries and at for other places.
- Enter takes no preposition at all: "enter the building".

- Enter into is only for agreements and discussions: "enter into a contract".

Questions

Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. We walked ___ the station and waited for the train.

2. She ran ___ the room and closed the door.

3. He got ___ the car and started the engine.

4. We drove ___ the tunnel.

5. They swam ___ the river to the other side.

6. We walked ___ the beach at sunset.

7. The plane flew ___ the clouds.

8. The cat ran ___ the table and hid.

9. She climbed ___ the roof.

10. We drove ___ your house but did not stop.

11. I usually go ___ work by bus.

12. We arrived ___ the airport two hours early.

13. He ___ the building through the side door.

14. The children ran ___ the garden to play.

15. She took the keys ___ her bag.

16. The road goes ___ the village and up the hill.

17. The bird flew ___ our heads.

18. They walked ___ the street to the bank.

19. The train went ___ the tunnel under the mountain.

20. She walked ___ me without saying hello.

Answer key

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1. **to** — To marks the destination of the movement.
2. **into** — Into shows movement from outside to inside the room.
3. **into** — Into shows movement to the inside of the car.
4. **through** — Through means inside something and out the other side.
5. **across** — Across means from one side to the other on a surface.
6. **along** — Along follows the line of the beach.
7. **over** — Over means above something and past it.
8. **under** — Under means directly below the table.
9. **onto** — Onto shows movement to a surface.
10. **past** — Past means going by something without stopping.
11. **to** — Go takes to before the destination work.
12. **at** — Arrive is a movement verb that takes at for a place such as an airport.
13. **entered** — Enter takes no preposition when it names a place.
14. **into** — Into shows movement from outside to inside the garden.
15. **out of** — Out of shows movement from inside the bag to outside.
16. **through** — Through means inside the village and out the other side.
17. **over** — Over means above something and past it.
18. **across** — Across means from one side of the street to the other.
19. **through** — Through means inside the tunnel and out the other side.
20. **past** — Past means going by someone without stopping.