

## prepositions in movement phrases

### at

We use *at* with *arrive* in sentences such as:

We **arrived at** the airport / **at** our destination.

- We also use *at* to show the person or thing that an action is aimed at:

They **threw** eggs **at** the speaker.

- We use *throw to* when we want someone to catch something:

She **threw** the pencil **to** me.

### into

We use *into* with verbs that mean 'to move from outside to inside an area':

When she came **into** the room, they fell silent.

I saw Jim going **into** the paper shop.

She got back **into** bed.

They're moving Stephen **into** a different class.

### to

We generally use *to* with verbs of movement including *go, come, travel, run, send, take, return, get, walk*:

I am going **to** Room Three for a seminar.

I returned **to** England last month.

- We also use *to* with nouns that suggest movement, including *welcome, journey, trip, stroll*:

Our **journey to** Tibet was unforgettable.

**Welcome to** Britain!

- When *been* means 'visited', we use *to*:  
I've **been to** Italy several times.
- When *been* means 'stayed or lived' we use *in*:  
I've **been in** France for five days now.

### towards

*Towards* means moving or pointing in a particular direction.

He noticed two policemen coming **towards** him.

All the windows face **towards** the river.

- We also use *towards* with nouns to suggest aiming to achieve:

They are working **towards** an agreement.

## Practice

### 1 Fill in each space in the following sentences with *in, on, at, to* or *into*.

- ..... the morning we went ..... the museum and then had lunch ..... the cafeteria.
- Look! You have mud ..... your shoes. Wipe them ..... the mat before you come ..... the house.
- They went ..... the restaurant and sat down ..... a corner table.
- I've got to go ..... town this morning but we can meet later ..... the morning, ..... John's house.
- It says ..... the newspaper that they're getting married ..... the spring ..... a small church ..... the island of Santorini.
- There I was, sitting ..... the waiting-room when who do you think came ..... the room?
- ..... Tuesday morning, I'm going ..... town to put some money ..... my bank account.
- The coffee's ..... the table and there's some sugar ..... the cupboard if you want some.
- The film starts ..... eight o'clock and I'd like to be ..... the cinema ..... time to see the start of the film.
- Mr Fisher is ..... Boston now but he'll be ..... his way back ..... London ..... a couple of days' time.
- I saw Jessica ..... Oxford Street ..... Friday afternoon and she told me she's still ..... university.
- Is there anything ..... the television this evening? Have a look in the paper – I think the TV guide is ..... the back page.
- She stood up and walked ..... the window. She saw a woman sitting ..... a bench throwing a ball ..... a dog, who caught it and brought it back ..... her.
- She was standing ..... the queue ..... the bus stop, with her back ..... me.
- I had never been ..... the United States before so, when we arrived ..... JFK airport ..... that spring morning in 1989, I felt very excited.