

Prepositions of Movement and Arrival: Travel & Transport

INTERMEDIATE

Focus: go/come/travel to, return to, Welcome to/trip to/visit to, Movement vs Position (to vs in/at), Experiences with 'been to', been to a place vs been to an event, I've never been to, get to a place, arrive in (towns/countries), arrive at (buildings/events)

1. Movement vs. Position (To vs. In/At)

- **TO (Movement):** We use **to** when we move from one place to another.
 - *Examples:* Go **to**, come **to**, travel **to**, return **to**, drive **to**.
 - *Sentence:* I am going **to** work. (Movement)
- **IN / AT (Position):** We use **in** or **at** when there is no movement; we are already there.
 - *Sentence:* I am **in** the office. (Static/Position)
 - *Compare:* He went **to** bed (movement). He stayed **in** bed (position).

2. Nouns + To

Certain nouns related to travel and greeting always take **to**:

- **Welcome to...** (*Welcome to London!*)
- **A trip to...** (*We planned a trip to Spain.*)
- **A visit to...** (*It was my first visit to the museum.*)

3. Experiences: The Present Perfect ('Been to')

We use **been to** to say that someone visited a place and has returned.

- **Structure:** Have/Has + been + **to** + place/event.
- *Places:* I **have been to** Italy three times.
- *Events:* **Have** you **been to** the Jazz Festival?
- *Negatives:* I **haven't been to** Paris yet. / I **have never been to** Paris.

4. Verbs of Arrival: Get vs. Arrive

- **Get to:** This is a general, informal way to say "arrive." It always uses **to**.
 - *Example:* What time do you **get to** the office?
- **Arrive in:** Use for **Cities** and **Countries**.
 - *Example:* We **arrived in** London. / She **arrived in** France.
- **Arrive at:** Use for specific **Buildings, Stations, or Events**.
 - *Example:* We **arrived at** the airport. / They **arrived at** the party.
 - *Note:* We say "arrive home" (no preposition).

5. Transport Prepositions

- **Get in(to) / Get out of:** Used for cars and taxis.
 - *Example:* She got **into** the taxi. / He got **out of** the car.
- **Get on / Get off:** Used for public transport (bus, train, plane) and bikes/horses.
 - *Example:* We got **on** the bus. / Please get **off** the train at the next stop.

Practice Exercises

Complete the sentences using the correct preposition (to, in, at, on, off, into, out of) or the correct form of the verbs in parentheses (for Present Perfect).

- **Tip for Negatives:** Use the cue (not/verb).
- **Tip for Questions:** Pay attention to the subject cue (you/verb).

1. I am tired. I am going _____ bed now.
2. _____ (you/be) _____ the new art gallery in the city center yet?
3. We finally arrived _____ the hotel after a long flight.
4. To get to the library, get _____ the number 10 bus at the second stop.
5. I _____ (not/be) _____ Japan, but I would love to go one day.
6. What time usually _____ (you/get) _____ work in the morning?
7. Sarah isn't here. She _____ (not/be) _____ the office; she went _____ the bank.
8. They arrived _____ Paris late last night.
9. We really enjoyed our visit _____ the national park.
10. Why _____ (he/get) _____ the car so slowly? Is his leg hurting?
11. _____ (she/ever/be) _____ a rock concert?
12. Quick! The train is leaving. Get _____ !
13. We _____ (not/return) _____ our hometown since 2010.
14. "Welcome _____ our new headquarters," said the manager.
15. Be careful when you step _____ the boat; the water is deep.

Answer Key

1. **to** (Movement)
2. **Have you been to** (Present Perfect Question)
3. **at** (Arrive at a building/specific place)
4. **off** (Public transport)
5. **haven't been to / have never been to** (Present Perfect Negative)
6. do you **get to** (Get to a place)
7. **in** (Position) ... **to** (Movement)
8. **in** (Arrive in a city)
9. **to** (Noun: visit to)
10. did he **get out of** / is he **getting out of** (Car transport question)
11. **Has** she ever **been to** (Present Perfect Question - Event)
12. **on** (Public transport)
13. **haven't returned to** (Movement/Direction)
14. **to** (Phrase: Welcome to)
15. **off** (Transport) / **out of** (if a small boat, but 'off' is standard for stepping onto land)