

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

2. Location preposition "in"

Prepositions connect words and groups of words together. They express the relation between living beings, things or contexts. Prepositions that describe spatial relations, like placement, or directional relations, are called location prepositions or prepositions of location.

"in" is one of the most common location prepositions. It is used in the context of movement within a closed space, building or a region.

Example:

*Ich gehe **in** das Kino.*

It usually answers the question "Wohin?" (to where/where to).

Example:

***Wohin** gehst du? - **In** das Kino.*

In such cases, the accusative case always follows.

If "in" is followed by the neuter definite article "das", then it can often be contracted to form the article "**ins**":

Preposition + article
in + das (accusative)

Contraction
ins

Example
*Ich gehe **ins** Kino.*
*Ich gehe **ins** Fitness-Studio.*

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"in", "zu" or "nach"?

It's not always easy to decide when to use which preposition, so you're better off learning them in context. But for a loose general rule, you can follow these pointers:

Wohin? (where to?)

*Ich gehe **ins** Kino.*

*Ich fliege **in die** USA.*

*Ich fahre **nach** Berlin.*

*Ich fliege **nach** Brasilien.*

*Das Taxi fährt **zum** Bahnhof.*

*Ich fliege **zu** meiner Familie.*

Destination of the movement

enclosed spaces/buildings

geographical locations with an article

cities

geographical locations without an article

places (except for geographical locations)

people