



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Banta Learning Prepositions 2 by K S Sandhu

The Lake District

Neetu and Meetu are cousins who live in Coventry. Both graduated from university last year and now work in different offices. Neetu is an accountant, and Meetu works in marketing. They love outdoor activities, especially cycling, so they decided to take a short holiday in the Lake District to celebrate their new jobs.

One sunny morning in summer, they drove north from Coventry and arrived in the beautiful Lake District. They rented two bikes in the village of Boot and started their adventure. "Let's cycle across Hardknott Pass first," Meetu suggested excitedly. "It's famous for being very steep and challenging!"

Hardknott Pass is one of the steepest roads in England, with sharp hairpin bends and a gradient that makes drivers nervous. For cyclists, it is even more difficult, but Neetu and Meetu were determined. They pedalled slowly up the narrow road, breathing heavily. The views were breathtaking: green hills, rocky mountains, and distant lakes. Sometimes they had to push their bikes up the steepest parts because it was too hard to ride.

At the top of the pass, they stopped to rest and take photos. "That was exhausting but worth it!" Neetu said, wiping sweat from her face. From there, they cycled down the other side carefully, enjoying the wind in their hair and the feeling of speed.

They reached the pretty valley of Eskdale and continued along the River Esk. The path was flat and peaceful now. They crossed several small stone bridges over the clear, rushing water. The river sparkled in the sunlight, and birds sang in the trees. They went past the charming village of Eskdale Green, waving to local people who smiled back.

After a long ride, they finally arrived in Ravenglass, a small coastal village on the Irish Sea. Their legs were tired, but they felt proud. "What a fantastic route!" Meetu said. To celebrate, they went into a cosy hotel near the beach for afternoon tea. They enjoyed scones with jam and cream, and hot tea while looking out at the sea.

After eating, they needed to return to Boot, but they were too exhausted to cycle back up the pass. Luckily, they saw the famous Ravenglass and Eskdale

Railway, a narrow-gauge steam train known as "La'al Ratty". They put their bikes onto the special carriage and boarded the little train.

The train chugged through the beautiful valley, past green fields and hills, and over bridges across the river. It stopped at a few small stations before reaching Dalegarth for Boot. During the journey, they relaxed and watched the scenery go by. "This is the perfect way to end the day," Neetu said, smiling.

When they arrived back in Boot, the sun was setting. They collected their bikes off the train and cycled slowly to their accommodation. That night, over dinner, they talked about their adventure. "We went across mountains, along rivers, past villages, through valleys, and even over the sea on the train in a way," Meetu laughed.

It was a memorable day full of effort, beauty, and friendship. Neetu and Meetu promised to plan more cycling trips together soon.

Questions:

Question 1: Where did Neetu and Meetu start their bike ride?

Question 2: What did they do when the road up Hardknott Pass was too steep to cycle?

Question 3: Which river did they cycle along after coming down from the pass?

Question 4: How did they return to Boot at the end of the day?

Question 5: Why did they feel proud after arriving in Ravenglass?

Answers:

Answer 1: They started their bike ride in the village of Boot (after renting bikes there).

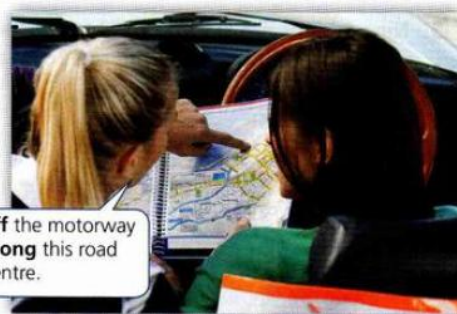
Answer 2: They had to push their bikes up the steepest parts.

Answer 3: They cycled along the River Esk.

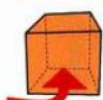
Answer 4: They put their bikes onto the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway (the little steam train) and travelled back to Boot by train.

Answer 5: They felt proud because they had completed a long and challenging route across mountains, along rivers, and past villages.

15 Prepositions of movement



1 into, out of, onto, off



Into describes movement to the inside of something:

*It's raining. Let's go **into** the house now.*

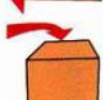
*We can drive **into** the town centre this way.*



Out of is the opposite of *into*:

*Can you get my shoes **out of** the wardrobe?*

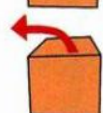
*Open the door and let me **out of** this room immediately!*



Onto expresses movement to a surface or 'line':

*The cat jumped **onto** the wall.*

*I think we should get **onto** the motorway here.*



Off is the opposite of *onto*:

*The cat jumped **off** the wall.*

*Let's get **off** the motorway and get something to eat.*

! You may hear English speakers using *off of* rather than *off*, but many people think this is incorrect: [~~×~~ Please get **off of** the grass.] ✓ Please get **off** the grass.

We get *into/out of* a car or taxi, but *on(to)/off* a bus, plane, train, ship, bike:

*Come on – jump **into the car**. We're late. I got **off the train** at the last stop.*

2 along, past, through

We use *along* when we follow the length of something (e.g. a path, a river, a road):

*We can drive **along** the Rhine to the south of Germany.*

*Walk **along** the path by the river – it's very pretty.*

We use *past* when we go up to something and then we pass it. We often use this with shops and buildings: *Go **past** the post office and the bookshop is on your left.*

We use *through* when we go from one side of something to the other side. We often use this with countries, open space, enclosed tunnels, etc. *We'll drive **through** Switzerland.*

*Go **through** the main entrance. I like to walk **through** the park on my way to work.*

3 across, over

Across and *over* both mean 'from one side to the other':

*Walk **across/over** the first bridge. We'll drive **across/over** the Alps.*

But we use *over* when we are not directly touching the surface we are crossing:

~~×~~ *The horse jumped **across** the fence.* ✓ *The horse jumped **over** the fence.*

4 at, to

We usually use *to* to show direction: *Go **to** the bank and turn right. Give the book **to** Jamie.*

With some verbs (e.g. *throw, shout, point*), we can use *to* and *at*, but there is a difference in meaning:

*Throw those keys **to** me, will you? I need **to** lock the door. (I want the keys.)*

*She was so angry, she threw the keys **at** me. (to try and hit me)*

Practice

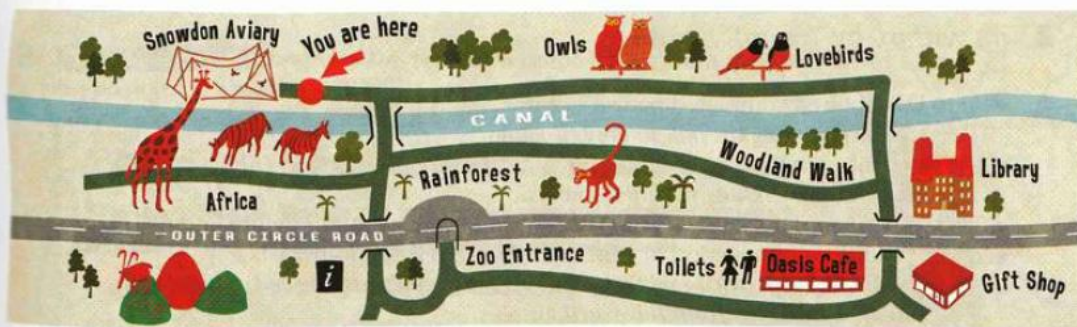
- 1 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Read the letter and choose the correct underlined words.
 2.29 Listen and check.

Our cycling holiday in the Lake District was great, thanks. We had one really lovely day when we cycled (0) into / across the Hardknott Pass (1) to / at the little village of Boot, then we went (2) along / past the River Esk for a while, going (3) across / into some lovely little bridges. We went (4) at / past the pretty village of Eskdale Green and cycled all the way to Ravenglass, on the coast. It's a long way, so we went (5) onto / into a really nice hotel for afternoon tea, and then put the bikes (6) onto / into the little train that goes back up to Boot.

- 2 Find five more mistakes with prepositions and correct them. Tick (✓) the correct sentences.
 2.30 Listen and check.

- 0 I'll turn the TV on. Can you get the DVD ^{out of} ~~out~~ the case?
 1 We flew across the Andes when we went from Argentina to Chile.
 2 We're late! Hurry up and get onto the taxi.
 3 Mike always runs along the canal path for half an hour every morning.
 4 The bridge that goes through the railway line is in danger of collapsing.
 5 Don't throw stones to the cat - you'll hurt her.
 6 To get to the station from here, go along the school and turn left.

- 3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Look at the map of London Zoo and complete the directions with one word in each gap. You are at the Snowdon Aviary.



Excuse me, how do I get to ...

- 0 the Oasis Café? Go along the canal, past the owls and lovebirds, turn right, go through the tunnel. The Oasis Café is on the right.
 1 the woodland walk? Turn right and go the bridge, then turn left and walk the canal.
 2 the gift shop? Go straight on the owls and the lovebirds, turn right and go the canal, then go the tunnel under the road. It's on the left.
 3 the entrance? Turn right and go the canal, go the Africa section and go the tunnel the information kiosk. Then turn left.
 4 the nearest toilets? Go the canal and go right the bridge. Go the library, the tunnel and then go the café. The toilets are inside the café on the left.

Answers

UNIT 15

1 1 to 2 along 3 across 4 past 5 into 6 onto

2 1 ~~across~~ over

2 ~~onto~~ into

3 ✓

4 ~~through~~ across/over

5 ~~to~~ at

6 ~~along~~ past

3 1 across/over, along 2 past, over, through

3 over, past, through, to 4 along, across/over,
past, through, into