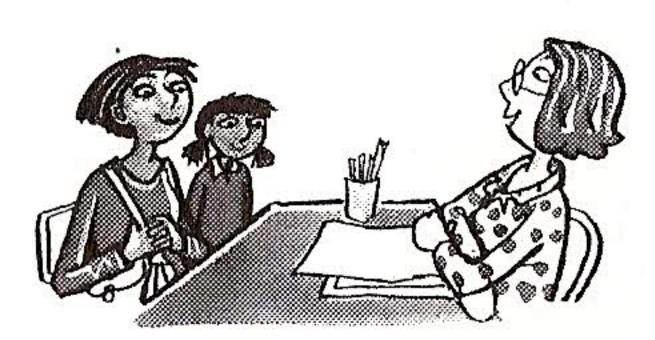
The 2 (school / the school etc.)

Compare school and the school:



Alison is ten years old. Every day she goes to school. She's at school now. School begins at 9 and finishes at 3.

We say a child goes to school or is at school (as a pupil). We are not necessarily thinking of a specific school. We are thinking of school as a general idea.



Today Alison's mother wants to speak to her daughter's teacher. So she has gone to the school to see her. She's at the school now.

Alison's mother is not a pupil. She is not 'at school', she doesn't 'go to school'. If she wants to see Alison's teacher, she goes to the school (= Alison's school, a specific building).

We use prison, hospital, university, college and church in a similar way. We do not use the wh	ıer
we are thinking of the general idea of these places and what they are used for. Compare:	

- ☐ Ken's brother is in prison for robbery.

 (He is a prisoner. We are not thinking of a specific prison.)
- ☐ Joe had an accident last week. He was taken to hospital. He's still in hospital now. (as a patient)
- ☐ When I leave school, I want to go to university/college.
- ☐ Sally's father goes to church every Sunday. (to a religious service)

- ☐ Ken went to the prison to visit his brother.
 - (He went as a visitor, not as a prisoner.)
- ☐ Jane has gone to the hospital to visit Joe. She's at the hospital now. (as a visitor)
- ☐ Excuse me, where is the university, please? (= the university buildings)
- ☐ Some workmen went to the church to repair the roof. (not for a religious service)

With most other places, you need the. For example, the cinema, the bank (see Units 72C and 73D).

Bed work home

We say go to bed / be in bed etc. (not the bed):

- ☐ It's time to go to bed now.
- □ Do you ever have breakfast in bed?
- but \square I sat down on the bed. (a specific piece of furniture)
- go to work / be at work / start work / finish work etc. (not the work):
 - ☐ Chris didn't go to work yesterday.
 - ☐ What time do you usually finish work?

go home / come home / arrive home / get home / be at home etc. :

- ☐ It's late. Let's go home.
- □ Will you be at home tomorrow afternoon?

We say go to sea / be at sea (without the) when the meaning is 'go/be on a voyage':

- ☐ Keith works on ships. He is at sea most of the time.
- but \square I'd like to live near the sea.
 - ☐ It can be dangerous to swim in the sea.

	Co	mplete each sentence using a preposition (to/at/in etc.) + one of these words:
		bed home hospital hospital prison school university work
	1	Two people were injured in the accident and were takento hospital
		In Britain, children from the age of five have to go
		Mark didn't go out last night. He stayed·······························
		There is a lot of traffic in the morning when everybody is going
		Cathy's mother has just had an operation. She is still
		When Julia leaves school, she wants to study economics
		Bill never gets up before 9 o'clock. It's 8.30 now, so he is still
	8	If you commit a serious crime, you could be sent
)	Co	mplete the sentences with the word given (school etc.). Use the where necessary.
		(school)
		a Every term parents are invited to the school to meet the teachers.
		b Why aren't your children atschool today? Are they ill?
		c When he was younger, Ted hated
		d What time doesusually start in the mornings in your country?
		e A: How do your children get home from? By bus?
		B: No, they walk isn't very far.
		f What sort of job does Jenny want to do when she leaves?
		g There were some people waiting outside to meet their children.
		(university)
		a In your country do many people go to?
		b If you want to get a degree, you normally have to study at
		c This is only a small town, but is one of the biggest in the country.
		(hospital)
		a My brother has always been very healthy. He's never been in
		b When Ann was ill, I went to to visit her. When I was there,
		I met Lisa who is a nurse at
		c Peter was injured in an accident and was kept in for a few days.
		(church)
		a John's mother is a regular churchgoer. She goes to every Sunday.
		b John himself doesn't go to
		c John went to to take some photographs of the building.
		(prison)
	5	a In some places people are in because of their political beliefs.
		b A few days ago the fire brigade were called to to put out a fire.
		c The judge decided to fine the man £500 instead of sending him to
		(home/work/bed)
	O	a I like to read in before I go to sleep.
		b It's nice to travel around, but there's no place like!
		c Shall we meet after tomorrow evening?
		d If I'm feeling tired, I go to early.
		e What time do you usually start in the morning?
		f The economic situation was very bad. Many people were out of
	7	
345	1	(sea) a There's a nice view from the window. You can see
		b It was a long voyage. We were at for four weeks.
		c I love swimming in
		~