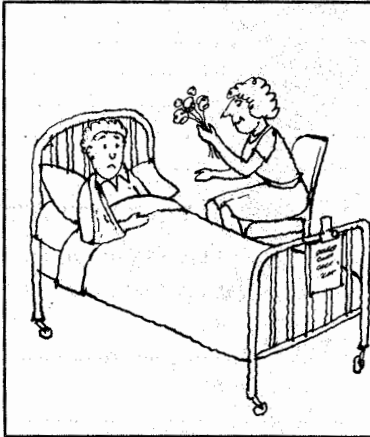


# UNIT 75 Hospital / the hospital, school / the school etc.

a) Study this example situation with hospital:



Jack had an accident a few days ago.  
He had to go to **hospital**.  
He is still **in hospital** now.  
Jill went **to the hospital** to visit him.  
She is **at the hospital** now.

Someone goes **to hospital** or is **in hospital** if he is ill or injured. We are not necessarily thinking of a particular hospital; we are thinking of the idea of hospital.

But Jill is not ill or injured. She is not 'in hospital'. She went there as a visitor. We say 'Jill went to **the hospital** / Jill is **at the hospital**' because we mean a particular hospital, the one where Jack is.

b) Prison school university college church

We say a criminal goes **to prison** (*not* 'to the prison'); a child goes **to school**; a student goes **to university/college**. We do not use **the** when we are thinking of the idea of these places and what they are used for:

- After I leave school, I want to go to **university**. (as a pupil/student)
- Why aren't the children at **school** today? (as pupils)
- Mrs Kelly goes to **church** every Sunday. (for a religious service)
- Ken's brother is **in prison** for robbery. (he is a prisoner)

We say 'be **in prison**', but usually 'be at school/university/college'. '**In church**' and 'at church' are both possible.

Now study these sentences with **the**:

- Mr Kelly went to **the school** to meet his daughter's teacher. (He didn't go there as a pupil.)
- Excuse me, where is **the university**, please? (a particular building)
- The workmen went to **the church** to repair the roof. (They didn't go to a religious service.)
- Ken went to **the prison** to visit his brother. (He went as a visitor, not as a prisoner; he went to the prison where his brother was.)

c) bed work home

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

- It's time to go to **bed** now.      - Is Tom still **in bed**?

'Go to **work** / be at **work** / start **work** / finish **work**' etc. (*not* 'the work'):

- Why isn't Ann **at work** today?      - What time do you finish **work**?

'Go **home** / come **home** / be at **home** / stay at **home**' etc. (*not* 'the home'):

- Come on! Let's go **home**.      - Will you be **at home** tomorrow?

There is *no* preposition with go/come/get/arrive home. (*not* 'to home')

## UNIT 75 Exercises

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### 75.1 Complete these sentences using the words in this unit.

Example: Two people were injured in the accident and were taken to hospital.....

- 1 I was very tired and it was very late, so I went .....
  - 2 Fred robbed a bank but was caught by the police. He was sent .....
  - 3 Tom doesn't often go out in the evenings. He usually stays .....
  - 4 Jill isn't a religious person. She never goes .....
  - 5 In Britain, children from the age of five have to go .....
  - 6 Children sometimes get into trouble if they are late for .....
  - 7 There is a lot of traffic in the morning when everybody is going .....
  - 8 Mrs Grimes has just had an operation. She is still .....
  - 9 When David leaves school, he wants to study economics .....
  - 10 Bill never gets up before 9 o'clock. It's 8.30 now, so he is still .....
- 

### 75.2 Write short answers to these questions.

Example: If you wanted to meet your children's teachers, where would you go?

To the school.....

- 1 A friend of yours is in hospital. Where would you go to visit him? .....
  - 2 A friend of yours is in prison. Where would you go to visit him? .....
  - 3 A friend of yours is at church. If you wanted to meet him immediately after the service, where would you go? .....
- 

### 75.3 This time you have to choose the correct form, with or without the.

Example: Ken's brother is in prison / the prison for robbery. ('prison' is correct)

- 1 Some children hate school / the school.
- 2 What time do your children finish school / the school?
- 3 After leaving school / the school, Nora worked as a cleaner in hospital / at the hospital.
- 4 My brother is very ill in hospital / the hospital.
- 5 All over the world, people are in prison / the prison because of their political beliefs.
- 6 The other day the fire-brigade had to go to prison / the prison to put out a fire.
- 7 On the way to London we passed through a small village with an old church. We stopped to visit church / the church. It was a beautiful building.
- 8 John's mother is a regular churchgoer. She goes to church / the church every Sunday. John himself doesn't go to church / the church.
- 9 Every term parents are invited to school / the school to meet the teachers.
- 10 After work / the work, Ann usually goes home / to home.
- 11 Tom left university / the university without doing his examinations.
- 12 When Ann was ill, we all went to hospital / the hospital to visit her.
- 13 I like to read in bed / the bed before going to sleep.
- 14 What time do you have to start work / the work tomorrow morning?
- 15 How many people go to university / the university in your country?