

The many meanings of **in**

Name _____

Date _____

DIRECTIONS

The word **in** is printed in bold in every sentence below. Read each group and notice how its meaning shifts — and how the sign changes along with it. Then write your own sentences on the blank lines.

1 INSIDE (LOCATION)

within something; surrounded by it

- ♦ The children are swimming **in** the lake.
- ♦ Some Chihuahuas are small enough to sit **in** a tea cup.
- ♦ What did you put **in** your mouth this time?

2 DURING (TIME)

within a season, a month, or a stretch of time

- ♦ It is warm **in** the summer.
- ♦ You are as slow as molasses **in** January!
- ♦ Students should participate **in** class.

3 ENTER

moving from outside to inside

- ♦ After a while, we went **in** the house.
 - ♦ The host invited us to come **in**.
 - ♦ Go **in** at the “in” door.
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4 USE (BY MEANS OF)

the tool or material something is done with

- ♦ Math problems are usually written **in** pencil.
 - ♦ Wash white clothes **in** hot water.
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5 FOR (AS, OR WHILE DOING)

serving as something, or in the course of it

- ♦ “No, you are wrong,” was all she said **in** reply.
 - ♦ Get a doctor’s advice **in** developing an exercise plan.
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6 RATIO

one part out of a larger number

- ♦ Only one **in** six is eligible for services.
 - ♦ One **in** eight American children has no medical insurance.
 - ♦ Rare diseases hit one **in** several thousand people.
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7 CLOSE (NEAR)

tucked up tight against something

- ♦ We planted the shrubs close **in** to the house.
 - ♦ The truck driver stayed **in** near the white line to avoid going over the edge.
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8 AGREE (IN LINE WITH)

matching or fitting together with something else

- ♦ His suggestion fell **in** line with our plans.
 - ♦ Your thinking was **in** line with mine.
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9 AVAILABLE (HERE)

arrived and ready; no longer being waited on

- ♦ The test scores are **in**; let me read them.
 - ♦ The blood test results are not **in** yet.
 - ♦ Are the Girl Scout cookies **in** yet?
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CHALLENGE

Several of these sentences use the English word *in*, but you would not sign IN for them at all — the meaning lives somewhere else in the sentence. Find two groups where that is true. Write one sentence from each, then write what you would sign instead.

THINK ABOUT IT

All nine groups use the same English word, but they do not share the same meaning — and in ASL they do not share the same sign. Choose one of your own sentences from each group and be ready to sign it for the class.