

The Differences Between “in,” “into,” and “in to”

1. These two prepositions have very different meanings and different rules. They are not interchangeable.

"In" is a location or position

“Into” has motion/movement or direction

2. Examples:

The cook was **in** the kitchen. (location)

The restaurant owner walked **into** the kitchen. (movement)

The flowers are **in** the room. (location)

The flowers are **into** the room.

She danced **into** the studio. (movement)

She danced **in** the studio. (location)

The bird flew **into** the cage. (movement)

The bird flew **in** the cage. (location)

He stared **into** her blue eyes. (direction)

3. A person who is **in** a room (location) may decide to move **into** (motion) another room.

After waiting **in** the hallway (location) for ten minutes, I finally walked **into** (motion) the office.

FOXNews.com: Hostage Crisis **In** Sacramento Stretches **Into** Third Day

4. Practice:

Doctor Jones slid _____ the Prius, and _____ a moment he was gone.

5. Keeping them separate:

We dropped **in to** visit my Aunt.

Let's invite them **in to** dinner. (You wouldn't want people walking **into** your dinner.)

We walked down the street and turned **in to** a drugstore. (not **into** a drug store)

They caught the thieves and turned them **in to** the sheriff. (not **into** the sheriff)

Salutatorian at 2005 graduation: “When I walked **into** the door of Riverdale High School....”

(quoted from News-Press story)

6. It is best not to use "into" as someone being into something. An example: She's **into** vegetarianism. Instead, say, "She's a vegetarian" or "She is interested in the health benefits of vegetarianism."