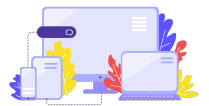




# Good AT, WITH, or IN?



## Your complete guide

The adjective **good** can be used with different prepositions.

**Good AT** is usually followed by a verb. “He’s good AT drawing.”

**Good IN** is less common but it can be used with school subjects. “He’s good IN Math.”

**Good WITH** is followed by a noun. “He’s good WITH numbers.”

## Good At or Good In or Good With? Your complete guide

When the adjective **good** is used with the prepositions **at**, **in**, and **with** it shows a high level of skill. How these prepositions are used can be a little bit confusing, this blog post will be your guide to using these words correctly when you communicate in English.

Remember that the word **good** is an adjective. Adjectives follow a form of the verb **to be**.

Be **GOOD AT** something.

Good - adjective - definition:

1. of high quality or an acceptable standard
2. pleasant; that you enjoy or want

[good\\_adjective OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com](http://good_adjective.OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com)

## Good AT

The adjective phrase **GOOD AT** means: skilled, able, gifted, talented etc.

Synonyms from [good at - Cambridge English Thesaurus with synonyms and examples](#)

**Good at** is most often followed by a verb. The verb will be in its gerund form. (verb +ing)

- Greg is **good at** fixing cars.

Fixing is the gerund form of the verb to fix. Cars is the plural form of the countable noun car.

**AT** is a common English preposition with many uses. It is often used with adjectives to show how well somebody does something.

- Kelley is **good at** drawing. She drew a picture of our teacher that looked very real.

- My dad is **good at** playing the piano.

At is used with negative adjectives too.

- I'm **terrible at** cooking.

You may have also heard examples like this.

- My cousin is really **good at** soccer. He has been playing since he was 4 years old.

This is the same as saying:

- My cousin is really **good at** playing soccer.

When we say **good at** a sport or **good at** a subject, the gerund form of the verb is understood, so we don't need to include it.

- I'm **good at** baseball. I can play any position on the field. = I'm **good at** playing baseball.
- My brother was **good at** many sports in high school. He played rugby, basketball, and softball.
- Victor is **good at** math. He always gets an 'A' in math class.

## FAQ – Frequently Asked Question

Can I say My Dad is **good at** the piano?

The pattern [Someone is **good AT** *a musical instrument*] is not common.

- My Dad is **good at** playing the piano. Better
- My Dad is a good piano player. Best - This is the most natural way to say this.
- I was a good trumpet player in high school.

GOOD AT – 5 Common example sentences

Fixing

- My student is an engineer. He always helps me when I have trouble with my laptop. He's **good at** fixing computers.
- A: The brakes on my bicycle don't work well.  
B: Let's ask my Dad to look at it. He's **good at** fixing things.

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(This is a general statement that means my Dad can fix many things. He is handy.)  
handy – adjective – able to use your hands or tools to make or repair things well Oxford  
Learner’s Dictionaries

### Making

- My Grandma is **good at** making cookies. I always loved to visit her when I was a child.
- University can be scary sometimes. For many students, it’s their first time living away from home. My university had great counselors, they were **good at** making the students feel more comfortable at school.

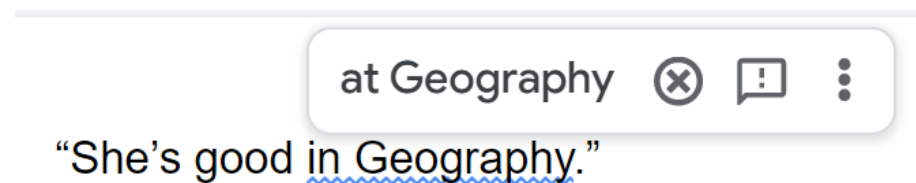
### Explaining

- My Japanese teacher was very **good at** explaining new grammar. She always made it easy to understand using natural example sentences.

## Good IN

The adjective phrase **good in** is rare to use when you're talking about the skill level of someone. It is possible to say “She’s good in Geography.” when we are talking about a school class or subject, but for me as a native speaker, the preposition at is a more natural choice here. “She’s good at Geography.”

Even Google Docs prefers **She’s good at Geography**. It suggests AT if I type IN.



### Natural ways to use Good IN

**Good in** is can be a natural fit in sentences that talk about serious conditions:

- Let’s send Evan to the meeting, he is good in high-pressure situations.  
\*Evan does well in high-pressure situations.
- Navy SEALs are highly trained. They are good in very stressful environments.  
\*They perform well in very stressful environments” is also natural.
- I just put winter tires on my car. They’re good in the snow.

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My tires perform well in snowy conditions.

One very informal exception - If someone is a skilled lover we can say that person is "Good IN bed."

- Don Juan is a famous Spanish lover who was rumored to be very good in bed.

Good IN - Good meaning high quality

You may hear Good IN used when the meaning of good is high quality. Please read these examples. The adjective phrase good in doesn't mean skilled in these sentences.

I love that shirt! You look good in blue.

Last year was challenging but try to focus on things that were good in 2021. If you look hard you can find them!

## Good WITH – grammar

**Good with** will be followed by a noun

"Greg is **good with** cars."

There are more than 15 ways to use the preposition WITH. When with is paired with the adjective good it is used to show the way in which somebody does something

- Keith is very **good with** his hands. (This means he can do many things with tools that you use with your hands. It's another way to say someone is handy.)

When we say **good with** we will use an uncountable noun or the plural form of a countable noun.

- Helen is **good with** money. (Money is an uncountable noun)
- Alec is **good with** people. (People is the plural form of the countable noun person.)

GOOD WITH – examples

**Good with** children – Have a talent for understanding and communicating with children.

To get along with children well. (Children is the plural form of child.)

- My cousin is a third-grade teacher. She is **good with** children.

## Learn the Suffix EN

**Good with** people – Easy to get along with others; friendly

- A: Julia just got promoted to manager.

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B: I'm not surprised, she's **good with** people. I'm sure she will be a good manager.

**Good with** animals – To be comfortable around and enjoy being with animals.

- Her brother is a vet. He has always been **good with** animals, ever since he was a boy. (Vet is short for veterinarian. This is an animal doctor.)

**Good with** money – To use money well. To be **good at** saving money and not waste it.

- Bill saved up enough money to buy a car when he was still in high school. He is **good with** money.

Good AT or Good WITH Negative sentences

To make the sentences negative

We can add the word 'NOT' before good to make our sentences negative.

- She's NOT **good with** people.
- He's NOT **good at** geography.
- I'm NOT **good with** numbers.
- We're NOT **good at** baseball.

Comparison and superlative

The comparison and superlative forms of GOOD are BETTER and BEST. These all work in the same expressions.

- My 2 brothers are better at soccer than me, but I'm the best at hockey.

\*The superlative form BEST will follow the article THE. Best means #1, so it is only talking about one person or thing.

- A: Lisa is better with children than Amy. She has more patience.

B: I agree. Out of all of our staff, Lisa is number one. She is the best with her students.

\***Good with** people can be used with a specific group of people.

- Out of all of our staff, Lisa is the best with her students.
- Oliver is **good with** his staff.

We can also use other adjectives with a similar feeling.

Awesome AT/WITH – Great AT/WITH – Fantastic AT/WITH

- Brian is awesome with computers.
- Wendy is great at soccer.
- My wife is fantastic with my family.

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Good FOR is used with things.

- This stretch is good FOR your shoulders.
- Exercise is good FOR your health.

Good AT, Good IN, or Good WITH – Conclusion

Remember to use **Good at** before a verb and **Good with** before a noun and your English will sound natural. **Good in** is not really a common expression. What are you good at? Is there something you are really good with? Leave a comment for me at the bottom of this post.

Watch the video below to review the grammar and improve your English listening skills!↴

[Good AT or Good WITH? \(Learn how to use this Confusing English\)](#)



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