day 18 on, under, in front

Say where things are: on, under, in, outside, in front and behind.

Lost phones, hidden keys, the shop across the road: position words help you find everything.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
上	shàng	on; up; above	A short line sitting on top of a long one: up!
下	xià	under; down; below	上 points up, 下 hangs down. They're mirror twins.
里	lǐ	in; inside	Lǐ: put it in, like a letter into an envelope.
外	wài	outside; out	"Why?" asks the dog at the door. Because it wants to go outside: wài!
前	qián	front; before	Front of the queue, first in line: qián.
后	hòu	back; behind; after	"Ho!" you shout from the back of the room.
边	biān	side; edge	Pick a side, any side: biān.
前面	qiánmiàn	in front; ahead	前 front + 面 face, side
后面	hòumiàn	behind; at the back	后 back, behind + 面 face, side
外边	wàibian	outside	外 outside + 边 side
这边	zhèbiān	this side; over here	这 this + 边 side
那边	nàbiān	that side; over there	那 that + 边 side

pattern position words go after the place

thing | 在 | place | 上 · 下 · 里 · 前面 · 后面

In English "on" comes first: on the book. In Chinese it comes after: 书上, book-on. Put it with 在 to say where something is: 手机在书上.

猫在电脑上。 **Māo zài diànnǎo shàng.** The cat is on the computer.

我的手机在衣服下。 **Wǒ de shǒujī zài yīfu xià.** My phone is under the clothes.

我妈妈在超市里。 **Wǒ māma zài chāoshì lǐ.** My mum is in the supermarket.

大白在商店外边。 **Dàbái zài shāngdiàn wàibian.** Dabai is outside the shop.

dialogue where's my phone?

anna 小明，我的手机呢?
Xiǎomíng, wǒ de shǒujī ne? · Xiaoming, where's my phone?

xiaoming 在电脑前面吗?
Zài diànnǎo qiánmiàn ma? · Is it in front of the computer?

anna 不在。
Bú zài. · No, it isn't.

xiaoming 在杯子后面吗?
Zài bēizi hòumiàn ma? · Behind the cup?

anna 也不在。
Yě bú zài. · Not there either.

xiaoming 大白在外边玩你的手机!
Dàbái zài wàibian wán nǐ de shǒujī! · Dabai's outside, playing with your phone!

anna 大白！我的手机!
Dàbái! Wǒ de shǒujī! · Dabai! My phone!

xiaoming 大白真喜欢玩手机!
Dàbái zhēn xǐhuan wán shǒujī! · Dabai really loves playing with phones!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

边
biān
side; edge

后
hòu
back; behind; after

good to know · 前 and 后 also work for time: 睡觉前 before bed, 下班后 after work. Same rule: they come after. "Where's my...?" can be as short as 我的手机呢? Just add 呢 to the thing you're missing.

Now you can find the shop across the road, and tell a friend their phone is under the clothes.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**