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There the question was if 'at' could be used too. I know that 'in your own home' is often used in this kind of advertisements, but I'd like to know if 'at' would sound okay. There doesn't seem to be agreement on this matter, so I'd really appreciate it if you could tell me about its use. Please note that my question is not about the general rules/difference between 'at home' and 'in your home', but 'at your home' vs 'in your home', i.e. at/in + possessive determiner (my, your, etc) + noun/noun phrase. Thank you very much. Since this is still confusing to you, I agree with Hockey 13 that there can be a fine distinction made if absolutely necessary, but also with Nuntty, that both sentences in casual conversation would also be used to tell people that the party is where your house is, not someone else's house, at my home, house, place, is your address where you live, and all the strutures inside and out that belong to you, and the property that is included. It is a location of a building and outside lawns, yards, ect, in my home could distinguish the party will take place inside the one building you call your house, there will be no barbecue outside, no games outside, everything inside, indoors, not outdoors. "Since they predict rain next Saturday, the party will now take place in my home, sorry we can't cook outdoors as I had planned." Since this is still confusing to you, I agree with Hockey 13 that there can be a fine distinction made if absolutely necessary, but also with Nuntty, that both sentences in casual conversation would also be used to tell people that the party is where your house is, not someone else's house, at my home, house, place, is your address where you live, and all the strutures inside and out that belong to you, and the property that is included. It is a location of a building and outside lawns, yards, ect, in my home could distinguish the party will take place inside the one building you call your house, there will be no barbecue outside, no games outside, everything inside, indoors, not outdoors. "Since they predict rain next Saturday, the party will now take place in my home, sorry we can't cook outdoors as I had planned." First of all, thank you very much for your reply, Dale Texas. But I'm afraid this is not what I'm trying to find out; I may not have explained myself properly. Yes, it's confusing because in that thread native speakers don't agree that they'd ever say 'at your home' at all. As I said, I'm not asking about the general rules (in my example it doesn't matter if you work/make money inside the house/outside while e.g. hanging laundry, but sort of saying you don't need to go out, e.g. to work in an office), but about its use. Some, by the way very dear foreros, state that they would not say "work at your home" but 'at home/in your home'. Thanks again. Last edited: Jul 30, 2011 Ok, then if it's just about working, I agree I would never say work at your home, since that is already understood, anymore than I would say for school work, homework is school work you do at your home. I would say homework is school work you do at home. At home to me is a set standard phrase and it sounds silly to explain that we are not talking about other peoples homes in both instances when the phrase itself already encompasses the notion of "your." However, there is to me another set phrase, and it is this, used for enthusiasm and emphasis, "work in your very own home" or "work in your own home "and meaning or implying "in comfort." These, like all set phrases, are not linguistic equivalents of algebraic formulas necessarily understood with at/in + possessive determiner (my, your, etc) + noun/noun phrase, I respect that attempt very much. They go beyond that and each one is a unique pattern, if someone drops a word out, it doesn't "sound right," if somebody says "work in your home" I wonder why dropped they dropped the set word "own". They have chopped up the idiom. Thank you so much for your help and clear explanation. What if the context is a party? I mean, would both at and in be possible here? Where's the party? Is it at/ in your home? As at home doesn't fit here, I guessed at your home must be okay. Am I mistaken? What if the context is a party? I mean, would both at and in be possible here? Where's the party? Is it at/ in your home? As at home doesn't fit here, I guessed at your home must be okay. Am I mistaken? Because that is a very general enquiry about where the party is to by, the most natural question, to me, would be "Where's the party? Is it at your house / are you having it at home?" That is how we are most likely to word it in BE, anyway In fact, many people would shorten that to "... is it at yours?", although that version is too modern for me to be comfortable with it. What if the context is a party? I mean, would both at and in be possible here? Where's the party? Is it at/ in your home? As at home doesn't fit here, I guessed at your home must be okay. Am I mistaken? Is it at your house? is how I would say it. EDIT: Cross-posted with The Prof. Then would in / at my home sound weird too? The other foreros said these two sentences are okay. Why? 1. The party will be held at my home. 2. The party will be held in my home. Is it at your house? is how I would say it. If you replaced at by in here, would that necessarily give the sentence a new meaning? Last edited: Feb 11, 2012 Then would in / at my home sound weird too? The other foreros said these two sentences are okay. Why? They are not "incorrect". It is simply a matter of what people usually say, and generally speaking, those two versions far less likely to be used than the same sentences but using "house". I have never thought about it before, but the word "home" is only regularly used in a small number of expressions, such as "... (at) home", "in one's own home" and "in the home". Obviously, as a Brit, I can't speak for the rest of the world. Prof, what do you think about my second question? To me, yes, "Is it at your house?" is the standard question. It is asking about the general location, so can refer to both/either the outside and the inside of the house, whereas "is it in your house?" is more specifically "inside" your house. We could use it, but rarely would here unless it was genuinely important to know if the party was going to be inside. Even then, we would probably be more likely to word it differently or ask a second question to get that information: This party you are having at your house - will it be in the house or in the garden? Americans seem to use the word 'home' for 'house' far more than us British. I'd probably say 'the party's at our place' whether we had a garden or not. After all you can hardly have a party that's only in the garden, unless you are the Queen. Hermione 1. The party will be held at my home. 2. The party will be held in my home. 3. The party will be held at the home. 4. The party will be held in the home. To me the usual use of home is "I stayed at home" or "I went home". In these context I would say "The party will be held at my house". I agree with The Prof that home is not used nearly as much in BE as AE. My mother in law used to say things like "She has a lovely home" this sounded illiterate to me. Americans seem to use the word 'home' for 'house' far more than us British. I would actually say that "home" is also pretty restricted in AE as well. I would never say "I'm throwing a party at my home." It would only be "house," "apartment," or "place." Sometimes I facetiously say "Welcome to our home" when inviting people in, but that's a sarcastic reference to how out-dated (and - I would almost feel - British) the word "home" sounds. I could also do the same with "You have a lovely home," but that would be a pretty campy version of "Wow, you've got a great place here." It also matters, I suspect, that a "home" is where a family lives and connotes a bit of "nesting," while young people mostly just have "places" and "houses." That pretty well sums up how I feel about it all. How absolutely enchanting! Hermione I would actually say that "home" is also pretty restricted in AE as well. I would never say "I'm throwing a party at my home." It would only be "house," "apartment," or "place." That's very interesting lucas. Perhaps I particularly notice it, whereas I wouldn't notice anybody using the same expressions as me. On the other hand, or is it on the same hand, I would most definitely notice if a Brit used 'home' instead of house (as a generic for the place you live in even if it isn't actually a house but an apartment. For me using 'home' instead of 'house' is rather like using the word 'residence' when answering the phone. Estate agent speak. So, all-in all what's the best advice we can give to a non-native speaker? It seems to me to be, use 'house': at my house, at my brother's house. Is there any good reason why non- native speakers should be advised to use 'home'? Hermione Well, for starters, non-natives should feel free to use "home" in phrases like "at home" or quasi-adverbially in "to go home"/"to stay home." Secondly, there are (rare) situations where the connotations of "home" - basically homey-ness, like when you've really moved in somewhere, and it feels comfortable and right for you, and probably when you're living with some kind of family or family-like arrangement (children, spouse, long-term boyfriend/girlfriend) - are appropriate. So I might be comfortable with saying "You two have made a really great home for yourselves here." (Or is this just a case of another set phrase, "to make a home (for oneself)"?) But there's also "She died Thursday in her home of 20 years, surrounded by her children and grandchildren." And another phrase, "to feel at home," comes to mind. And, of course, you can think about "home" or miss "home" when you're away from it: "I know this has been a super-great vacation, but I'm just at that point where I'm really missing my home." Conversely, we often want to emphasize the "home's" qualities of safety, reassuring-ness, comfort, and privacy. This can be seen when something happens that shatters our idea of "home". "The attacker had broken into her home." "Ugh. After finding out that Daren was such a creep, I can't believe I ever let him into my home." I guess perhaps it might be a general rule of thumb to say: "my house" and "my place" are locations, but "my home" is an idea. But there's also "She died Thursday in her home of 20 years, surrounded by her children and grandchildren." This in doesn't necessarily mean she didn't die in the garden, does it? ... I don't see any real difference between them. ... I agree with Hockey 13 that there can be a fine distinction made if absolutely necessary, but also with Nuntty, that both sentences in casual conversation would also be used to tell people that the party is where your house is, not someone else's house. Nuntty and Dale Texas were saying that in one's home can sometimes mean the same as at one's home. Would the same apply to house? This in doesn't necessarily mean she didn't die in the garden, does it? No, this sentence pretty much only means that she died peacefully in bed. It's a stock phrase used in obituaries. Nuntty and Dale Texas were saying that in one's home can sometimes mean the same as at one's home. Would the same apply to house? "In my house" means "inside my house" (versus "outside my house"). "At my house" means "located on my property" (versus "located somewhere else"). The point is that they're comparing two different things. The British version of that stock phrase is "... died / passed away peacefully at home ..."