

# MASTERING ARTICLES AND PREPOSITIONS

Two kinds of little words—articles and prepositions—can sometimes cause big problems for nonnative speakers of English—and even for some native speakers. No one notices these words when you use them correctly. However, when you don't, your writing sounds odd, and sometimes your meaning can be unclear. Remember that good writing should allow readers to pay attention to what you have to say, not force them to notice mistakes in the way you say it. This handout will examine some solutions to typical problems with articles and prepositions.

## USING ARTICLES

The articles—*a*, *an*, and *the*—help your reader understand whether you are using a noun in a general or specific way. However, some people confuse *a* with *an*, and many nonnative speakers of English have difficulty distinguishing when to use *a/an*, *the*, or no article at all. Unfortunately, rules will not explain all uses of articles; some must simply be memorized. The following rules explain most uses, though.

### A/An

**Use *a* Before Consonant Sounds, *an* Before Vowel Sounds.** The beginning sound—not the spelling—of a word determines whether you should use *a* or *an* before it. *A* goes before *consonant sounds*.

*a* lesson *a* shoe  
*a* chair *a* doctor

*An* goes before *vowel sounds* (for example, *an apple* is easier to pronounce than *a apple*). \*

*an* elephant                      *an* awful experience  
*an* enormous task              *an* overcharge

\*Don't confuse *an* with the conjunction *and*:

*an* hour

I took a nap for *an* hour, *and* then I got up.

Note: The following two sounds are different from their spellings.

1. Long *u* is pronounced like the word *you*, so its *sound* begins with *y*, a consonant. Therefore, use *a* before words beginning with long *u*.

*a* unit  
*a* unique experience  
*a* useful product  
*but: an* uncle  
*an* unusual experience

2. Words beginning with *silent h* have a vowel for their *first* sound. Therefore, *an* comes before these words.

*an* hour  
*an* honor

*an* heir  
*but: a* happy moment  
*a* humorous story

## In Summary: To use a/an,

1. place *a* before consonant sounds, including long *u* (for example: *a* bottle, *a* universal idea);
2. place *an* before vowel sounds and silent *h* (for example: *an* April day, *an* honor).

**1 WARM-UP** Place *a* or *an* before each of the following words or phrases.

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. _____ child          | 10. _____ historic event     |
| 2. _____ hour           | 11. _____ carpenter          |
| 3. _____ eager beaver   | 12. _____ elephant           |
| 4. _____ lion tamer     | 13. _____ letter             |
| 5. _____ sidewalk       | 14. _____ humid day          |
| 6. _____ hopeful moment | 15. _____ alley              |
| 7. _____ sidewalk       | 16. _____ urban environment  |
| 8. _____ island         | 17. _____ unique environment |
| 9. _____ open book      | 18. _____ ironing board      |

## Singular Countable Nouns: A/An Versus The

With Singular Countable Nouns. Use *a* or *an* to Mean “Any One.” There are two kinds of nouns in English:

1. countable nouns ( you can put a number before them): *one day, three apples, five people.*
2. uncountable nouns ( you cannot put a number before them): *water, music, honesty, luggage.*

The article *a/an* means the same thing as the number *one*. Therefore, you can use *a/an* only before a *singular countable noun*. *A/an* means “any one” or “one of many.”

Don’t use *a/an* before plural countable nouns.

Here are some examples of the use of *a/an*.

Take *a* pencil ( *any one* pencil; there are many choices).

I just ate *an* apple ( *one of many* possible apples).

A robin built its nest in that tree ( not a specific robin; it could be *any on* robin).

**Use a/an for Identification.** In many languages, you could write “I am student” without the *a*. In English, you must include the *a*, since you mean, “I am *one of many* students.” Here are some more sentences in which *a/an* identifies someone or something.

He is *a* lawyer.

It is *an adjective*.  
She is only *a municipal worker*.  
That was *a funny story*.

## The

**Use *the* to Point to a Specific One.** Unlike *a*, which means “any one,” *the* points out a *specific* one or a *particular* one. Here are some examples of the use of *the*:

What is *the assignment for Wednesday*? ( Specifies it and distinguishes it from other assignments, like those for Monday and Friday.)  
*The new Chevrolet that Linda bought* is beautiful. ( Specifies it and distinguishes it from other cars or Chevrolets.)  
Let’s eat *the apple pie*. ( Specifies it and distinguishes it from other pies, like peach or cherry pies. )  
*The man standing over there* asked to speak to the manager. (Specifies *man* and distinguishes him from others who may be present.)

**Use *the* When You Mean the Only One.** Sometimes there is only one of something in a room, or in a house, or in the whole world. When you refer to that thing, you cannot use the article *a*, for *a* implies that something comes from a group containing more than one. You must use the article *the*.

*The roof* of this house leaks. (The house has only one roof.)  
I want to buy carpeting for *the floor*. (There is only one floor.)  
What time does *the clock* say? (There is only one clock in the room.)  
*The sky* is cloudy today. (There is only one sky.)

**Use *the* to Refer to Nouns You Have Already Mentioned.** Once you have mentioned a noun, you have specified which one you mean. When you mention it a second time, you should use *the* before it instead of *a*.

Would you buy *a used car* from that man?  
Yes, but only *if the car* (now specified) had a five-year guarantee.  
You will find *a pair of earrings* and *a necklace* in my drawer. *The Necklace* (now specified) was my grandmother’s.

**In Summary:** To use *a/an* or *the* with singular, countable nouns,

1. use *a/an* when you mean *any one* or *one of many* (for example: *a tree* = *any tree*; *a hair* = *one hair*);
2. use *a/an* for identification (for example: “Tom is *a barber*.”);
3. use *the* to point out a *specific* or *particular* one (for example: *the chair* in *the corner*, or *the pen* with *the missing cap*);
4. use *the* when you mean *the only one* (for example: *the floor*, *the second floor*, *the attic*).
5. use *the* to refer to nouns you have already mentioned (for example: “I found *a photograph* and *a painting* in the attic. *The painting* [now specified] apparently was based on *the photograph*.”).

## 2 WARM-UP

In each blank space, write either a/an or the.

1. In 1843 \_\_\_\_\_ gentleman from Abbeville, South Carolina, refused \_\_\_\_\_ challenge to \_\_\_\_\_ duel. As a result, his neighbors were so happy that they gave him \_\_\_\_\_ barbecue.
2. In 1844 New York got \_\_\_\_\_ police department, but no uniforms.
3. In 1849 Elizabeth Blackwell was \_\_\_\_\_ first woman doctor to practice in the United States.
4. In 1860 baseball's "seventh-inning stretch" began. It was \_\_\_\_\_ way to bring luck to \_\_\_\_\_ home team because "7" was \_\_\_\_\_ winning number in dice.
5. In 1861 Congress passed \_\_\_\_\_ first income-tax law. \_\_\_\_\_ rate was three percent of income over \$800 \_\_\_\_\_ year.
6. In 1862 \_\_\_\_\_ twenty-three-year-old man invested \$4,000 of his life's savings in \_\_\_\_\_ oil refinery. His name was John D. Rockefeller.
7. In 1864 \_\_\_\_\_ motto "In God We Trust" appeared for \_\_\_\_\_ first time on \_\_\_\_\_ coin.
8. In 1865 \_\_\_\_\_ black chef introduced \_\_\_\_\_ potato chip to the United States.
9. In 1870 Mississippi sent \_\_\_\_\_ new senator to the United States Congress. He was Hiram R. Revels, \_\_\_\_\_ first black man ever to serve in \_\_\_\_\_ Senate.
10. In 1871 \_\_\_\_\_ fire started in \_\_\_\_\_ stable on \_\_\_\_\_ west side of Chicago. It swept through \_\_\_\_\_ city, destroying \$200 million in property.
11. In 1873 John Henry, \_\_\_\_\_ black railroad worker whose unbelievable

strength made him \_\_\_\_\_legend in his lifetime, died while working on  
\_\_\_\_\_railroad tunnel in West Virginia. \_\_\_\_\_ballad based on his life  
quickly became popular.

12. In 1876 Alexander Graham Bell patented \_\_\_\_\_telephone.
13. In 1878 Thomas Edison took out \_\_\_\_\_patent on \_\_\_\_\_phonograph.
14. In 1879 Frank W. Woolworth wanted to set up \_\_\_\_\_low-priced  
shopping center. \_\_\_\_\_result was \_\_\_\_\_five-and-ten-cent store in  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

## Plural Countable Nouns and Uncountable Nouns: *The* Versus No Article

**Use *the* Before Specific Plural Countable and Specific Uncountable Nouns; Use No Article Before General Plural Countable and General Uncountable Nouns.** As you know, you cannot place *a/an* before a plural noun. Therefore, when you use a plural noun, your choice is limited to *the* or no article at all. *The* makes the plural noun specific; no article makes the plural noun nonspecific, or general, in its meaning. Compare these examples.

*The three birds on the windowsill* (specific) are pigeons.  
*but*

*Birds* (in general) are interesting animals.

*The people on my block* (specific) are friendly.  
*but*

*People* (in general) are attending college in larger numbers.

*The examinations this semester* (specific) have been easier than the  
examinations last semester.

*Examinations* ( in general) don't usually make me nervous.

If you use an *uncountable* noun in a general sense, you also do not use an article. Compare these examples.

*The water in Lake Erie* ( specific) is polluted.  
*but*

*Water* ( in general) is plentiful.

*The fruit this season* ( specific) has been expensive.  
*but*

*Fruit* ( general) is good for you.

**In Summary:** With plural nouns,

1. place *the* before specific plurals (for example: *the last three days, the lectures Professor Chin gave*);
2. place no article before plurals used in a general sense (for example: *many students, rock bands, prices*).

With uncountable nouns used in a general sense,

**3 WARM-UP**

Write *the* only where it is needed in the blanks below; otherwise leave the space blank.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ people I know like \_\_\_\_\_ movies.
2. I loved \_\_\_\_\_ two movies I saw this weekend.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ telephone company is a legal monopoly.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ legal monopolies include the telephone company and the gas company.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ police do not belong to \_\_\_\_\_ unions.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ police in our neighborhood seem to patrol each block regularly.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ refrigerators in Europe are smaller than \_\_\_\_\_ ones in the United States.
8. We saw \_\_\_\_\_ some beautiful refrigerators on sale.
9. I attend \_\_\_\_\_ church on Main Street.
10. I go to \_\_\_\_\_ church.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ good diet is important to \_\_\_\_\_ good health.
12. You ought to try \_\_\_\_\_ new high-protein diet.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ lunch at Chez Pierre costs \_\_\_\_\_ five dollars.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ five-dollar bill has Lincoln's picture on it.

## Some Additional Advice About A/An and The

### Some Names Require *the*.

Use *the* before the names of the countries that end in –s or contain the word *Republic*.

*the* United States (but just America)

*the* Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (but just Russia)

*the* Netherlands (but just Holland)

*the* British Isles (but just Great Britain)

*the* People's Republic of China (but just China)

Note this exception: *the* Soviet Union

Use *the* before the names of rivers, oceans, and seas (but not lakes).

*the* Nile River

*the* Mediterranean Sea

*the* Atlantic Ocean    Lake Superior

Exception: *the* Great Salt Lake

Use *the* before the names of colleges and universities beginning with the words *College* or *University*.

*the* University of Illinois

Indiana University

*the* University of Southern California    Boston College

*the* College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

### In Summary: Place *the* before capitalized nouns

1. that are country names that end in –s ( *the* United States) or that contain the word *Republic* ( *the* Republic of South Africa);
2. that are river, ocean, or sea names ( *the* Atlantic Ocean). Do not place *the* before lake names ( Lake Erie);
3. that are the names of colleges or universities beginning with the words *College* or *University* ( *the* University of Iowa).

**4 WARM-UP** Place *the* before the capitalized nouns that require it.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Caspian Sea
2. \_\_\_\_\_ University of Pittsburgh
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Ontario
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Germany
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Northwestern University
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Canada
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Socialist Republic of Vietnam
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Atlantic Ocean
9. \_\_\_\_\_ College of DuPage

10. \_\_\_\_\_ United Arab Republic

**Some Words Replace Articles Before Nouns.** When you place one of the following words before a noun, you cannot use an article.

every	any	much
each	no	which
either	enough	what
neither	many	his, her, their, etc.
some	more	Bill's, Mary's, etc.

**Some Words Go Before Articles.** Articles, of course, usually go before any adjectives describing a noun.

*the* large, round bowl  
*a* dirty, old apartment

However the following five adjectives go before articles.

both (the)	many (a)
half (the <i>or</i> a)	such (a)
all (the)	

**5 TRANSFORMING** Rewrite each of the following sentences so that it needs the article *the*.

1. People are very friendly. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. We like modern furniture. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Homework is usually difficult. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Albert loves food. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Love is hard to find. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. I like music. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## 6 EDITING

The following passage is missing many articles. Insert articles where they are needed.

### **The Unsinkable *Titanic***

a

(1) It was on ^ Friday afternoon that the *Titanic*, newest luxury-liner addition to Britian's White Star Fleet, departed from Queenstown, Ireland, on her first voyage from Southampton to New York. (2) It carried 1,290 passengers, crew of 903, and 3,814 sacks of mail. (3) There was great excitement aboard as big ship knifed its way through Atlantic at 23 knots, speed certain to set new crossing record. (4) Few hundred miles past halfway point, lookouts in crow's nest sighted iceberg less than quarter mile away. (5) There was no time to stop or to avoid it.

(6) No one is sure even now of exact cause of disaster. (7) Experts agree that the *Titanic's* captain, E.J. Smith, must have known of iceberg danger at least hour before disaster, yet no orders were given to slow down ship's speed. (8) Weather was clear and visibility was good. (9) Probably captain wanted to set record for crossing Atlantic. (10) Besides, captain, passengers, and crew believed the *Titanic's* publicity: that she was unsinkable. (11) What could possibly happen to unsinkable ship? (12) Just before midnight, iceberg was spotted dead ahead. (13) Seconds later, the ship hit it with solid crunch. (14) Iceberg tore hole in the ship below waterline. (15) Sound was so soft that no one was frightened. (16) After few minutes, curious passengers, in a happy mood, came on deck to look around and reach over edge of the ship to touch iceberg. (17) They were unaware of second danger: fire that had begun in coal storage area before leaving Southampton had still not been put out. (18) At 12:25a.m., after checking damage, Captain Smith ordered all passengers to come to upper deck. (19) With everyone in a happy mood, this order was carried out in fifteen minutes. (20) The captain explained what had happened and said that they must abandon ship. (21) At 12:50 a.m. Chief Officer Murdock ordered, "Crews to the boats! (22) Women and children first!"

(23) People cried in panic. (24) Wives refused to leave their husbands. (25) Crewman began to grab women and shove them into lifeboats. (26) Then, husbands cooperated, literally tossing women and children into the boats. (27) By 2a.m., all lifeboats were on water.

(28) Those in lifeboats could see that the *Titanic* had sunk twenty-five to thirty feet and that her front end was out of the water. (29) Lifeboat crews

rowed to safety. (30) Mile from wounded ship, survivors watched the *Titanic* break in two, as forward half slipped beneath surface. (31) Then there was explosion, and rear began to sink into the icy waters. (32) Survivors later reported they could hear ship's string orchestra playing as huge rear section disappeared.

(33) As a result of sinking, 1,493 passengers and crew died.

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## USING PREPOSITIONS

There are many prepositions\* and thousands of expressions that use them. You already know many of these expressions, but the following pages will present lists of the more common ones.

### Prepositions to Indicate Time

1. *At* a specific or precise time  
Class ends *at* 3:50 P.M.  
*At* midnight, the next day begins.  
Most employees punch out for lunch *at* noon.
2. *By* a specific time (means *no later than* that time)  
Tom will pick you up *by* 8:00.  
Jill said she might be ready as early as 4:30 but certainly *by* 6:00.
3. *Until* a specific time (*continuing up to* that time)  
Last night, Juanita studied *until* 11:00.  
I won't be able to see you *until* Monday.
4. *In* a specific time period (usually measured in hours, minutes, days, months, or years)  
*In* five minutes, I will be leaving.  
*In* winter, you see fewer people on the streets.  
We are planning to go on vacation *in* July.  
World War II ended *in* 1945.  
*in* the morning, *in* the afternoon, or *in* the evening (but *at* night)
5. *For* a period of time  
I have been a student *for* thirteen years.  
We have been best friends *for* a long time.
6. *Since* a date or an hour  
They have been living next door to us *since* 1973.  
No one has eaten *since* 8:15.
7. *On* a specific day or date  
Most people are paid *on* Friday.  
The doctor can see you *on* June 12.
8. *During* a continuing time period (or *within* the time period)  
I was ill *during* the night.  
We'll be away from the office *during* the next few hours.
9. Miscellaneous time expressions  
on time (that is, promptly)  
in a while  
at the beginning (of the day, month, or year)  
in the middle (of a day, month, or year)  
at the end (of a day, month, or year)  
from time to time (that is, occasionally)

## 7 WARM-UP

In each space below, write the appropriate preposition to indicate time.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ August 1, 1903, a Packard car arrived in New York, completing the first transcontinental automobile trip. It had been traveling \_\_\_\_\_ July 11, when it left San Francisco.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ June, 1905, the Pennsylvania Railroad's "fastest long-distance train in the world" began its route between New York and Chicago. It made its trip \_\_\_\_\_ eighteen hours. \_\_\_\_\_ the next week, the New York Central Railroad started its own eighteen-hour service on its Train "The Twentieth-Century Limited." Both trains operated \_\_\_\_\_ only two weeks, and then they had wrecks, killing nineteen people.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ January 22, 1907, the opera *Salome* opened at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. The opera was called immoral because Salome did the "Dance of the Seven Veils" in exchange for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. The Metropolitan Opera House would not allow the opera's performance again \_\_\_\_\_ twenty-one years later.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the end of 1908, Jack Johnson, a black man, won the heavyweight boxing championship of the world. This started a search for "the great white hope," a white boxer who could beat him. Johnson finally lost the championship \_\_\_\_\_ 1915. His boxing career lasted \_\_\_\_\_ thirty years, with only seven losses in 112 fights.
5. Most cars \_\_\_\_\_ the first years of the twentieth century were expensive, costing as much as \$2,800. Then came Henry Ford's "universal car," the Model T. \_\_\_\_\_ several years his cars were priced at \$850, but later, the Model T sold for \$290.

## Prepositions to Indicate Place

1. *In* a country, area, state, city, or neighborhood  
*in* France  
*in* Michigan  
*in* Boston  
*in* Lincoln Square
2. *On* a street or block  
We live *on* Wells Avenue  
They work *on* Main Street.
3. *At* a specific address  
We live *at* 1621 Wells Avenue.  
They work *at* 945 Main Street.
4. *At* an intersection of two streets  
Let's meet *at* (the corner of) State Street and Madison.

**8 WARM-UP** In each space below, write the appropriate preposition to indicate place.

### **The First Traffic Light**

(1) On August 5, 1914, \_\_\_\_\_ Cleveland, Ohio, drivers obeyed signals from the first traffic light \_\_\_\_\_ the United States. (2) It was installed \_\_\_\_\_ the corner of Euclid Avenue and East 105<sup>th</sup> Street. (3) Besides the red and green lights, the signal had a loud buzzer. Two buzzes directed traffic \_\_\_\_\_ Euclid to “Go,” and one buzz meant “Go” \_\_\_\_\_ 105<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Prepositions for Vehicles and Chairs**

1. *In (to)* and *out of* for small vehicles (like cars) and chairs with arms  
I got *in (to)* the cab as someone else was getting *out of* it.  
My father likes to sit *in* his big, comfortable chair.
2. *On* and *off (of)* for large vehicles (like planes, trains, buses, and boats) and armless chairs or any long seat (like a bench or a sofa).  
We rode *on* the subway and got *off* at our stop.  
He’s sitting *on* that bench over there.  
The man *on* the wooden chair is his brother.

**9 WARM-UP** Write the correct preposition in each space.

1. Years ago, people came to the United States \_\_\_\_\_ boats. Now almost everyone comes here \_\_\_\_\_ a plane.
2. We took a ride \_\_\_\_\_ our new car. We got \_\_\_\_\_ it at the park and walked around for a while.
3. Some of the people are sitting \_\_\_\_\_ the couch and some of them are sitting \_\_\_\_\_ armchairs.
4. Where do you usually get \_\_\_\_\_ the bus? Where do you get \_\_\_\_\_ it?
5. Would you please get \_\_\_\_\_ that table and sit \_\_\_\_\_ a chair?

### **Other Prepositions**

1. *For* a reason or *for* someone who benefits  
Bill went to the barber *for* a haircut.  
Mr. Esposito asked me to mail this letter *for* him.  
I bought a present *for* my sister.
2. *About* a subject (or *on* a subject)  
We were talking *about* our plans for next week.  
I recently read an article *about* (or *on*) space travel.

3. *Between* two; *among* three or more  
We shared the sandwich *between* the two of us.  
The five members of the board discussed it *among* themselves.
4. *From* a starting point; *to* a destination  
We drove *from* Kansas *to* Alaska.
5. *Toward* (in the direction of) a place  
I walked *towards* the beach but turned south before I arrived at the beach.
6. *Into* (entering) a place or space  
He just went *into* that room through the back door.
7. *In* (inside of) a place or space  
He's been running *in* the gym: he hasn't gone outside.
8. *On* a surface  
The book is *on* the table.  
The portrait is hanging *on* the wall.
9. *Off* a surface  
I took the book *off* the table.  
The painting fell *off* the wall.

## Prepositions That Repeat the Meaning of Prefixes

A *prefix* is something attached to the beginning of a word. For example, the prefix *re-* means “again,” so the word *review* literally means “view again.” Many words in English came from Latin; here is a list of common Latin prefixes, along with their meanings.

<i>prefix</i>	<i>meaning</i>	<i>examples</i>
<i>ad-, ac-, ap-, a-</i>	to	admit, acceptable, apply, agree
<i>con-, com-</i>	with	converse, communicate
<i>ex-, e-</i>	from	excuse, emigrate
<i>in-, im-</i>	in	involved, implicit

Many times—but not always—a word with one of these prefixes also repeats the meaning of the prefix in a preposition following the word:

*admitted to* a school; *acceptable to* me; *apply to* the school; *agree to* a contract

*conversed with* me; *communicated with* a friend

*excused from* class; *emigrate from* a country  
*involved in* a crime; *implicit in* his statement

## 11 WARM-UP

Write an appropriate preposition in each of the following spaces.

### Was He, or Wasn't He?

(1) Because of his short height and hairless face, the French diplomat to England, Chevalier d'Eon de Beaumont (1728-1810) easily passed for a woman. (2) He was often involved \_\_\_\_\_ spying activities in which he dressed as a woman. (3) In fact, he would never admit \_\_\_\_\_ the fact that he was a man. (4) Many people became interested \_\_\_\_\_ the controversy, and they made large wagers about D'Eon's sex. (5) Eventually, D'Eon placed an ad in a London newspaper saying that he was not concerned \_\_\_\_\_ resolving the issue and he would never admit \_\_\_\_\_ being either a man or a woman.

(6) By 1774, bets on D'Eon's sex, amounting \_\_\_\_\_ 120,000 (about \$250,000), had been made. (7) A trial was held, during which a French doctor said that it was apparent \_\_\_\_\_ him that D'Eon was a woman. (8) An associate of the doctor concurred \_\_\_\_\_ him, and the judge legally declared D'Eon to be a female. (9) Nevertheless, D'Eon still would not allow any physical examination \_\_\_\_\_ him. (10) Many bettors were very angry at this refusal, but no one would make any approach \_\_\_\_\_ him because D'Eon was a fabulous swordsman who had beaten the finest opponents.

(11) However, in 1810, D'Eon died, and at last the truth was revealed in an examination. (12) Although he had certain female characteristics like "remarkably full" breasts, something was not consistent \_\_\_\_\_ these female traits. (13) He had "male organs in every respect perfectly formed." (14) Thus, D'Eon was declared a man, and there was a great exchange \_\_\_\_\_ money after the news.

## A Reference List of Common Expressions Using Prepositions

Read through the following list to see if you know each expression on it. You may wish to memorize the ones you don't know, or to use the list for reference when you write a paper.

## 12 WRITING

In each space in the following passage, write an appropriate preposition. Consult the preceding list whenever necessary.

### The Story Behind Lenin's Rise to Power in Russia

(1) Vladimir I. Ulanov (later known as Nikolai Lenin) was born \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ May 4, 1870, \_\_\_\_\_ the small city \_\_\_\_\_ Simbirsk, Russia. (2) Like many revolutionaries, he came \_\_\_\_\_ a solid, middle-class family. (3) There was very little indication \_\_\_\_\_ his childhood that when he grew up he would become fully involved \_\_\_\_\_ world-wide revolution and communism. (4) However, he was always full \_\_\_\_\_ contradictions. (5) He hated authority but

used it ruthlessly \_\_\_\_\_ people who opposed him. (6) On the other hand, he was kind \_\_\_\_\_ people who agreed \_\_\_\_\_ his ideas.

(7) Vladimir's father was the inspector \_\_\_\_\_ public schools in Simbirsk. (8) His mother was the daughter \_\_\_\_\_ a physician. (9) Vladimir was a noisy and clumsy child, but he was brilliant. (10) He excelled \_\_\_\_\_ his schoolwork. (11) Although he was never quite comfortable \_\_\_\_\_ his classmates, he often helped them \_\_\_\_\_ their homework.

(12) \_\_\_\_\_ 1885, the first \_\_\_\_\_ two major tragedies struck his family. (13) Vladimir's father died of heart failure. (14) As a result, Vladimir lost all faith \_\_\_\_\_ God and developed a very strong affection \_\_\_\_\_ his older brother Alexander. (15) Nothing, it seemed, could ever come \_\_\_\_\_ the family except death, which happened to Alexander in 1887. (16) Alexander had become involved \_\_\_\_\_ a conspiracy to kill the Russian king, but it failed. (17) \_\_\_\_\_ May 20, Alexander was hanged.

(18) After his brother's death, Vladimir tried to live a normal life, but that was impossible. (19) Because he was the brother \_\_\_\_\_ a revolutionary, he was not admitted \_\_\_\_\_ any schools. (20) Finally, his high school principal helped him gain entrance \_\_\_\_\_ a law school. (21) However, \_\_\_\_\_ three months, he was expelled \_\_\_\_\_ attending a peaceful protest meeting. (22) No other school would accept him.

(23) So Vladimir tried "gentleman" farming and studied law on his own. (24) He took the law examination \_\_\_\_\_ November, 1891, and scored first \_\_\_\_\_ a group 124 people.

(25) He moved \_\_\_\_\_ St. Petersburg \_\_\_\_\_ 1893 and dedicated himself \_\_\_\_\_ Marxism. (26) He conspired \_\_\_\_\_ other revolutionaries, who lived undercover and communicated \_\_\_\_\_ each other by codes written \_\_\_\_\_ invisible ink. (27) He visited factories, organized groups \_\_\_\_\_ workers, and wrote many pamphlets.

(28) \_\_\_\_\_ 1895, he went \_\_\_\_\_ Switzerland \_\_\_\_\_ more study \_\_\_\_\_ Marxism. (29) Then he returned \_\_\_\_\_ Russia \_\_\_\_\_ a printing machine and plans to print a revolutionary newspaper. (30) Before he could publish the first issue, he was arrested and accused \_\_\_\_\_ subversive activities. (31) He was \_\_\_\_\_ jail \_\_\_\_\_ the next fifteen months. (32) After his release, he again traveled \_\_\_\_\_ Switzerland. (33) \_\_\_\_\_ the years he lived there, he began another newspaper that was shipped \_\_\_\_\_ Russia illegally. (34) \_\_\_\_\_ this newspaper, he first used the name Nikolai Lenin. (35) He also became involved \_\_\_\_\_ the activities of a group called the *Bolsheviks*, who were extreme radicals. (36) Lenin returned \_\_\_\_\_ Russia \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_ time, hoping \_\_\_\_\_ a revolution, but none occurred.

(37) Finally, during World War I, Lenin settled \_\_\_\_\_ Berne, Switzerland. (38) Meanwhile, \_\_\_\_\_ Russia, metal workers went on strike \_\_\_\_\_ a large city, and the strike spread rapidly. (39) The government of the king collapsed, and suddenly Russia was free. (40) Lenin, who was eager to return to Russia \_\_\_\_\_ his long-awaited revolution, had to make a deal \_\_\_\_\_ the Germans.

(41) It was understood that if he could take power in Russia, he would make peace \_\_\_\_\_ Germany.

(42) With this understanding, German leaders allowed Lenin to cross Germany \_\_\_\_\_ his trip  
\_\_\_\_\_ the Russian border.

(43) Thus, Lenin returned \_\_\_\_\_ Russia, \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_ the revolution—after it  
started, perhaps, but not too late to take advantage \_\_\_\_\_ it. (44) That was the beginning \_\_\_\_\_  
Lenin's rise \_\_\_\_\_ power.