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The Big Book of

English Prepositions Irregular Verbs and English Articles

for ESL and English Learners

THOMAS CELENTANO

The Big Book of English Prepositions, Irregular Verbs, and English Articles

for ESL and English Learners

by

Thomas Celentano

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Focus on English Books (LB)

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About the Author

Thomas Celentano has written seven books about English grammar for English students worldwide and has taught English as a second language for more than 17 years. He holds university degrees in foreign language studies and anthropology from the University of Hawaii, at A novelist, he writes under the pen name, R. Cameron Bryce.

Dedication

To my students everywhere

Forward

These three English grammar *hotspots* (difficult areas), prepositions, irregular verbs, and English articles are found everywhere in the English language. The correct use of English grammar in English communication can sometimes be difficult because of its unpredictable nature. This text was written as a quick reference guide, and primer, to help students quickly find and correct problem areas. The book was written for low-intermediate through advanced English learners.

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Introduction

Focus on Big Book Series Reference and Textbooks
Making the difficult parts of learning English easy

The Big Book of English Prepositions, Irregular Verbs, and English Articles for ESL and English Learners

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This book goes beyond just being a guide to the correct use of English prepositions, irregular verbs, and English articles. The student can use this text to learn how to correctly use the most difficult and confusing English grammar correctly in situational English communication, in a wide variety of English sentence contexts. In addition to **complete and clear explanations** of the correct way to use these difficult areas of English Grammar, there are many **examples** of correct usage and **self reviews** throughout the book.

The student is encouraged to use this book in three ways:

- As ***a quick reference*** The book layout and design make it easy for the student to quickly search for words or phrases of interest.

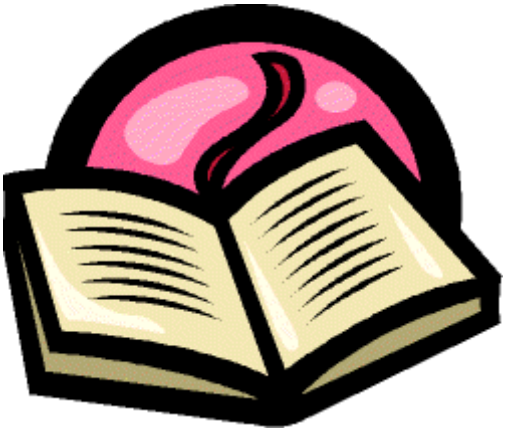
- As ***a learn-by-example*** Every step of the way there are many clear examples of usage, making it easy for the student to

understand how English speakers use prepositions in everyday communication.

- As ***a grammar*** This book was designed to push the student to the next level in learning English prepositions in their many different usages. The practice and review sections of the book challenge the student to generate communication based on the lesson at hand, helping the student to reinforce his or her new We encourage students, ESL instructors and schools to use this volume as part of their regular English grammar curriculum.

Focus on Books for ESL Learners

Making the difficult parts of learning English easy
Use English Grammar Correctly in Every English Sentence



This book is designed for low-intermediate through advanced English Learners who want to clearly understand the use of difficult English grammar in many different kinds of English sentences.

If English prepositions, irregular verbs, and English articles are confusing to you, don't worry! This Focus On English Big Book of Grammar will help you to learn and master these three difficult areas (the of English grammar.

How to use this grammar book

This book was designed to be both a reference book and an aid for classroom work that can be quickly searched for answers about the correct use in most English sentences of prepositions, irregular verbs, and English articles. At the beginning of each part there is a full Quick-Find Menu for that part.

" The Big Book of English Prepositions, Irregular Verbs, and English Articles" is broken down into three parts: Prepositions, Irregular Verbs, and English Articles. The student can quickly go to any part from the Master Quick-Find Menu after this section.

The student is encouraged to use the many examples in this book to help understand how we use grammar in particular English sentences, and to practice with the review sections at the end of each chapter.

This book was designed to be used as an aid to classroom study for students, ESL teachers, and schools, and as a quick-search resource manual.

Master Quick-Find Menu

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About the author

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as

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before

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for

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with

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without

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Part 1 - Introduction

Prepositions Made Easy for ESL Learners - Mastering English Prepositions for Fluency

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This book goes beyond just being a guide to the correct use of English prepositions. The student can use this text to learn how to correctly use prepositions, prepositional phrases, prepositions after certain English verbs, and prepositions in situational English communication in a wide variety of English sentence contexts. In addition to **complete and clear explanations** of the correct way to use prepositions, there are many **examples** of correct usage and **self reviews** throughout the book.

The student is encouraged to use this book in three ways:

- As ***a quick reference*** The book layout and design make it easy for the student to quickly search for words or phrases of interest.

- As ***a learn-by-example*** Every step of the way there are many clear examples of usage, making it easy for the student to understand how English speakers use prepositions in everyday communication.

- As ***a grammar*** This book was designed to push the student to the next level in learning English prepositions in their many different usages. The practice and review sections of the book challenge the student to generate communication based on the lesson at hand, helping the student to reinforce his or her new knowledge.

Focus on Big Books for ESL Learners

Making the difficult parts of learning English easy

*Use **Prepositions** Correctly in Every English Sentence*



This book is designed for intermediate and advanced English Learners who want to clearly understand the use of prepositions in many different kinds of English sentences.

Why do English speakers say: a person gets **on** a bus and **into** a taxi, **on** a plane and **into** a car; we arrive **in** New York **at** Kennedy Airport **on** Wednesday **at** 3 p.m. **in** November; we sit **at** a desk but we sit **in** a chair; our hands are **on** the desk but our pencil is **in** our hand; we say we did something **for** him and then did something **to** him; I like my friend because he's **like** my brother; we have been talking **about** school **since** 2 p.m. **for** 3 hours **outside** the building that is **close to** the bank; the book is **underneath** the counter, **beneath** the bookshelf, **under** the window, **near** the door, **beside** the TV, which is **next to** the chair that is **over** the box that is **on** the floor . . . whew!

Does some of this sound confusing to you? Well, don't worry! This Focus On English lesson is about English prepositions and will help you to understand and use English prepositions correctly in every situation.

How to use this preposition book

This book was designed to be both a reference book and a classroom text book that can be quickly searched for answers about the correct use of prepositions in most English sentences. At the end of this prepositions book there is an Appendix where the student can quickly find the correct prepositions that are used after certain English verbs.

"Prepositions Made Easy" is broken down into three sections:

The **first section** provides the student with the resources to understand the functional use of prepositions in everyday English communication. In this section, the student will find explanations and examples about how to use prepositions when talking about **giving** and **how things get done** (special uses for the prepositions ***with*** and

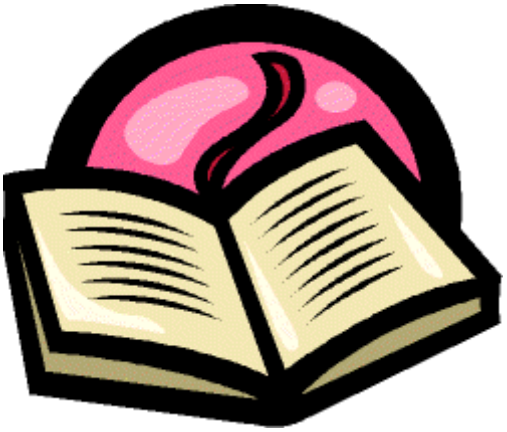
The **second section** is designed to help the student with the difficult area of prepositions following certain common verbs in English. The student may quick-search this second section easily, either by verb or by preposition, using the table of contents at the beginning of this book. This will save the student time and help to get answers quickly.

The **third section** is designed to be a reference resource for all of the most common prepositions used in English. This section contains a comprehensive listing of the prepositions followed by explanations and examples.

This book was designed to be used as a classroom study text or as a quick-search resource manual.

Section 1: *Using Prepositions correctly in context*

Learn to use English prepositions correctly when talking about ***giving*** *and expressing* ***how things get***



This first section helps the student to understand the use of English prepositions in real-life situations. In this section, the student will find explanations and examples relating to preposition usage in everyday English usage.

Chapter 1 - *Using Prepositions to Talk About Time*

*Using the prepositions **for** and **after** when talking about time in English*



Directions: Read the brief explanations and then the examples below. *(Note: students are encouraged to use this text in groups, when possible. The student can then practice by listening and*

speaking, as well as reading, which should make learning easier, faster and more fun.)

Use ***ahead*** to talk about being earlier than expected

Examples:

- train is ***ahead*** of schedule. It was supposed to arrive at 9 a.m. but the time is now 8:55 a.m. and it is here!

- is my first day of work, so I arrived at the office ***ahead*** of time. (Meaning: earlier than I was supposed to be there.)

Behind* :** Use ***behind to talk about being later than expected

Examples:

- train is ***behind*** schedule. It was supposed to arrive at 9 a.m. but the time is now 9:05 a.m. and it's not here yet!.

- watch says 12:30 p.m., but the time on the bank clock says 12:40 p.m. My watch must be

In this case, meaning: the time on my watch lags the real time. English speakers also say: *my watch is* or *my watch is running*

Use ***on*** for day names, like Monday or Tuesday

Examples:

- My friends come to visit me ***on*** Wednesday.

- We have an important exam ***on*** Friday.

Use ***on*** in expressions like on time; on time means at the correct time or agreed upon time.

Example:

- My boss does not want me to come to work late. He wants me to come to work ***on*** time.

At **:** Use ***at*** to talk about exact clock time.

Examples:

- The exam will start ***at*** 3 p.m..

- The movie starts ***at*** 7:15 p.m..

At **:** Use **at** to talk about midnight, noon, night, daybreak, sunset, sunrise, etc.

Examples:

- We had lunch ***at*** noon.

- We woke up ***at*** dawn (when the sun comes up).

- We went to bed ***at*** dusk (when the sun goes down).

At : Use in expressions referring to time: the moment, the present time, etc.

Examples:

- the moment, doctors are not sure what causes cancer.

- the present time, we are not hiring any more employees.

In : Use ***in*** to talk about seasons of the year:

Examples:

- We will start school ***in*** the fall.

- Our vacation begins ***in*** the summer

In **:** Use ***in*** talk about centuries, years, and months:

Examples:

- Cars were invented ***in*** the nineteenth century.

- We will finish class ***in*** May.

- We will graduate ***in*** 2012.

In **:** Use ***in*** to talk about blocks of time:

Example:

- The woman said that she expects to have children ***in*** the future.

In **:** Use ***in*** to talk about named times of the day: morning, afternoon, and evening:

Examples:

- We have tea ***in*** the morning.

- We eat lunch ***in*** the afternoon.

- We have dinner ***in*** the evening.

In **:** Use ***in*** to talk about months of the year.

Example:

- I will complete my English course ***in*** February.

In **:** Use ***in*** to talk about years.

Example:

- I came to this country ***in*** 2001.

In **:** Use ***in*** **in** expressions like ***in***

Example:

- He was just ***in time*** for dinner.

Meaning: he arrived when dinner was about to be served; at the correct time.

What is the difference between *in time* and *on In time* means that something has happened approximately at the same time as something else is happening or about to happen. Example: *We are about to have dinner, and you are just **in time** to join us.*

On time means that something has happened exactly at the agreed upon time. Examples: *The student was **on time** for school. School begins at 8 The student was **on***

Example using *on*

- He was ***on time*** for dinner. This means that he arrived at **exactly or near the time** when dinner was being served (just before, or exactly when dinner was being served)

Example using *in*

- We said dinner was at 6 p.m. and he arrived ***in*** This means that he arrived **sometime approximately around** the agreed upon time of 6 p.m.)

Within : Use ***within*** to talk about something happening sometime inside of a specific time frame.

Example:

- The bus should arrive ***within*** the next 15 minutes.

Meaning sometime more than 1 minute and less than 15 minutes. So, for example, if it is 8 the bus should arrive sometime between 8 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. The bus is not expected to arrive at 8:15 p.m. exactly nor at 8 p.m. exactly, but some time in between these two times.

Under* :** Use ***under when talking about something happening in less than a certain amount of time.

Example:

- I'm sure the train will be here in ***under*** an hour.

Meaning in less than an hour

Over **:** Use ***over*** when talking about something that takes more than a certain amount of time.

Examples:

- I have been waiting here for you for ***over*** an hour.

- The bus took ***over*** an hour to get to its next stop.

During **:** Use ***during*** to talk about the time span in which something happened.

Example:

- She cannot sleep well. She woke up several times ***during*** the night. (The time span was the nighttime hours when she was trying to sleep.)

Since **:** Use ***since*** to talk about situations that began in the past and continue to the present.

Example:

- I haven't felt well ***since*** I left my home country. Use since to refer to a specific time in the past like, for example, 1994 or 2 p.m.

For* :** Use ***for to talk about situations that began in the past and continue to the present.

Examples:

- I have been waiting here for the plane ***for*** two hours.

- We have been taking this exam ***for*** 3 hours and I am tired.

Use ***for*** to talk about consecutive time like, for example, for 50 minutes or for 20 years.

From* :** Use ***from to talk about situations that will begin now or began at a certain time in the past and continue into the future.

Example:

- Last year we lost a very important soccer match to our rival. We were very sad. ***From*** that time on we never lost another game to our rival.

From *that time on* means *beginning* with that time and *continuing* into the future . . . .

By_: When talking about time, use ***by_*** to mean up to a certain time.

Example:

- They will finish building our new house ***by_*** next March.

Practice - *Using Prepositions When Talking About Time*

Read the story below. Pay particular attention to prepositions ***for*** *and Let's begin:*

I won the lottery!

Two weeks ago I won the lottery. I'm going to be rich! My life will change forever.

I've got an appointment with the lottery office ***at*** 9 a.m. ***on*** Wednesday. I'm going to the lottery office to pick up my $1,000,000 lottery prize!

the telephone call, the person at the lottery office told me that I had to be at the lottery office ***on*** January 9 That's ***on*** a Wednesday. I haven't been able to sleep ***since*** I learned that I won the lottery.

I have been waiting ***for*** two weeks for this appointment. I want to buy many things.

I arrived at the lottery office ***at*** 8:45 I was really nervous. The lady at the receptionist desk said that the lottery official would give me my prize money ***within*** the next 15 minutes. I really hope he'll be here in ***under*** 10 minutes because I am so excited about receiving this money.

the time that I was waiting, it has been ***over*** five minutes now, I thought about that money. All that money! I was so excited. today, I will be a rich person. I haven't had much money in my life. In fact, I have been poor ***for*** the last five years.

The secretary told me that I was the first person ***in*** the past three years, ***since*** 2005, to win $1,000,000.

I told her about my dream for the future: next Wednesday," I said, "I want to have a new car, and ***in*** three years I want to have a home in Fiji."

I told the secretary: "I won't believe I really won the lottery I receive the money in my hands."

Meanwhile, the lottery official opened his door and said, "I'll be out ***in*** five minutes."

I thought to myself: I will buy a brand new car ***by*** Monday, and, ***by*** Wednesday, I will buy a new apartment.

In fact, ***by*** the time you finish reading to this lesson, I will have received my money. I know what I'm going to do! The first thing I'm going to do after I get my money is buy a sailboat and sail around the world!

Quick Review - *Using Prepositions When Talking About Time*

Let's review the use of ***at*** *and* ***in*** *for time sentences*

- Use ***on*** for day names, like Monday or Tuesday.

- Use ***on*** in expressions like ***on***

- Use ***at*** to talk about exact clock time. The exam will start ***at*** 3 p.m.

- Use ***at*** to talk about midnight, noon, night, day, etc. For example: we had lunch ***at*** noon. We woke up ***at*** dawn. We went to bed ***at*** dusk (when the sun goes down).

- Use ***at*** in expressions referring to time: ***at*** the moment, ***at*** the present time, etc. For example: the moment, we are not sure what causes cancer.

- Use ***in*** to talk about what will or may happen in the future: I will arrive ***in*** Tokyo ***in*** 4 days.

- will start school ***in*** the fall. Our vacation begins ***in*** the summer

- Use ***in*** to talk about centuries, years, and months. For example: cars were invented ***in*** the twentieth century. We will

finish class ***in*** May. We will graduate ***in*** 2012.

- Use ***in*** to talk about blocks of time. For example: I expect to have children ***in*** the future.

- Use ***in*** to talk about named times of the day. For example: We have tea ***in*** the morning. We eat lunch in the afternoon. We have dinner in the evening.

- Use ***in*** to talk about months of the year. For example: I will complete my English course ***in*** February.

- Use ***in*** to talk about years. For example: I came to this country ***in*** 2001.

- Use ***in*** in expressions like: ***in*** time. For example: He was just ***in time*** for dinner.

Snapshot - *Using Prepositions When Talking About Time*

What is the difference between ***in time*** and ***on In time*** means that something has happened approximately at the correct time. ***On time*** means that something has happened exactly at the right time.

He was ***in time*** for dinner. Means that he arrived at some time just before dinner was being served.

We said dinner was at 6 p.m. and he arrived ***on*** Means that he arrived exactly at 6 p.m.

Chapter 2 - *Using Prepositions when Talking About Place or Location*

*Using the prepositions and **towards** when talking about place or location*



Above* :** When talking about place, use ***above to mean something that is higher up than something else.

Examples:

- Oh look at that beautiful bird flying ***above*** our heads.

- The president is ***above*** all other managers in the company.

- The ceiling is ***above*** the floor.

Across* :** When talking about place, use ***across to express: from one side to the other.

Examples:

- The chicken walked ***across*** the street to eat some corn.

- The chicken walked ***across*** the busy street safely.

- The cruise ship sailed ***across*** the ocean to Europe.

- The man walked ***across*** the bridge to visit his secret lover.

After* :** Use ***after when talking about the 'next one' when talking about place or location.

Examples:

- The food store is the next building ***after*** the bank.

- The shopping mall is located on the next block ***after*** the high school.

Beside* :** Use ***beside when talking about something that is at the side of or next to something or someone.

Examples:

- The clothing store is ***beside*** the bank.

- The student sat ***beside*** the teacher while the teacher corrected his exam.

Against* :** When talking about place or location, ***against means something contacting or touching something else, pressing on it or pushing on it.

Examples:

- The woman leaned ***against*** the wall waiting for her boyfriend to meet her.

- The traffic was so bad that cars were almost ***against*** one another.

***Along* :** *Along* means over the length of something.

Example:

- The man walked ***along*** the busy road on his way to work.

Among when talking about place or location, usually refers to something or someone in a group of people or things.

Example:

- The woman walked in the park ***among*** the flowers and trees.

Compare: She walked ***between*** two tall trees. ***Between*** usually refers to two things or people; ***among*** refers to at least two things or people and possibly more.

Around : first meaning: means in the immediate vicinity. Another way to say this something that is close by or near.

Example:

- The new hotel is here, but we are not exactly sure where.

Around : second meaning: when we talk about a place being on the other side of something (sometimes obscured from your view by something).

Examples:

- The bank is ***around*** the corner from here.

- The police station is ***around*** the other side of the building.

Around : third meaning: moving here and there, randomly.

Examples:

- The couple walked ***around*** the neighborhood.

- The boy rode his bicycle ***around*** the town.

At : Use ***at*** to express being in front of, or up to something, but not in it.

Examples:

- He arrived at the train station at 3 p.m.. Compare this with: He went ***into*** the train station after he arrived.

- After traveling all day, he arrived ***at*** the train station. He then went ***into*** the train station. was ***in*** the train station for 2 hours before his train arrived. The train took him to the airport.

- He was ***at*** the airport by 6 He went ***into*** the airport to get his ticket. He was ***in*** the airport for 3 hours before his flight.

- The trash is kept ***at*** the back of the airport building.

In : Use ***in*** to talk about your location within a city, state, country or other named political area.

Examples:

- I will arrive ***in*** Tokyo in 4 days. (Not ***at*** Tokyo)

- He arrived ***in*** New York on Wednesday.

Behind **:** ***Behind*** means at the back of or the rear of something or someone.

Examples:

- The trash is kept ***behind*** the building.

- The boy watched the house burn while his little sister hid ***behind*** him.

On **:** Use ***on*** to talk about something in contact with or over a surface.

Examples:

- The book is ***on*** top of the desk.

- The book is ***on*** the desk.

- The picture is ***on*** the wall.

- The clock is ***on*** the wall.

- The map is ***on*** the wall.

- The light is ***on*** the ceiling.

beneath and ***below*** **:** You can use ***beneath*** and ***below*** in similar ways when you want to express something being physically lower than something else.

Examples:

- His feet are ***under*** the desk.

- His feet are ***beneath*** the desk.

- His feet are ***below*** the desk

Practice - *Using Prepositions when Talking About Place or Location*

Directions: *Read and / or listen (if you are in a group) to this brief story about a college student named Tommy Morgan and his friends to help you further understand how the following prepositions are used: and After reading and / or listening you will be given some individual example sentences to practice with.*

Tommy Morgan and His Friends

Tommy Morgan sits ***in*** his chair ***at*** his desk. ***On*** his desk there is a book. ***In*** the drawer, ***in*** his desk, there are some school supplies like, for pencils and pens. His feet are ***on*** the floor ***below*** the desk and his hands are ***above*** the desk while his elbows rest ***on*** the desk.

His pen is ***between*** the pages of his book. His book is ***on*** his desk. His favorite pen is ***among*** the school supplies ***inside*** the drawer ***in*** his desk. His desk is located ***in*** the middle ***of*** the room.

Tommy Morgan wears very nice shoes ***on*** his feet. ***In*** his right hand there is a pencil. His teacher sometimes tells him he should take his hat off. So he takes his hat off and puts it ***under*** the chair where he sits. His friend Mary sits in front of him ***at*** her desk. His friend Hiro sits ***at*** the desk ***at*** the back of the room. His friend Julio sits ***at*** the desk ***behind*** Tommy.

Today, the teacher is talking to the students about English ***At*** the top ***of*** the whiteboard, the teacher wrote three irregular verbs. ***At*** the bottom the whiteboard the teacher wrote three regular verbs. The teacher asks Tommy to come ***to*** the white board and write a sentence for each verb. She asks him to write the sentences ***in*** the middle of the whiteboard. Tommy leaned ***against*** the whiteboard and thought for a moment. Then he began to write his sentences ***in*** the middle of the whiteboard.

Across from the university, there is a pub. The pub is ***on*** the corner of Warren Avenue and Jackson Place. ***On*** Friday nights, Tommy, Hiro, Julio and Mary meet ***at*** the pub. Mary asked "where is the new restaurant that you told me about?' Hiro answered, "I'm not sure, I read about it in the newspaper; it's here, not too far away." Mary replied, "oh, so the restaurant is near the pub. Let's go to the restaurant after we go to the pub."

Inside the pub everyone was having a great time. They went ***into*** the pub and had such a good time that they stayed there ***for*** four hours and forgot their idea about going to the restaurant!

Review and Practice - *Using prepositions when talking about location or place*

Directions: Read and / or listen carefully to the sentences below. Fill in the blanks using one of the following prepositions: and The answers can be found below.

1. Oh look at that beautiful bird flying _____our heads.

2. The ceiling is _____our heads.

3. The man walked _____the street to visit his secret lover.

4. Wal-Mart is the next building _____the bank.

5. Wal-Mart is _____the bank.

6. The woman leaned _____the wall waiting for her boyfriend to meet her.

7. The man walked _____the busy road on his way to work.

8. The woman walked _____the park among the flowers and trees.

9. The new hotel is _____here, but we are not exactly sure where.

10. The couple walked _____the neighborhood.

11. He arrived train station at 3 p.m.

12. He arrived ___ New York ***on*** Wednesday.

13. The businesswoman is ***in*** the car. The man got _____the train and then _____a plane to New York.

14. We arrived ***at*** the train station _____2 p.m. Then we went inside the train station. We were ***in*** the train station when our train arrived ____3 p.m.

15. The chicken walked _____the busy street safely.

16. The trash is kept _____the building.

17. The trash is kept ____the back the building.

18. The book is ____top ***of*** the desk. The book is ***on*** the desk

19. His feet are _____ the desk. His feet are ***beneath*** the desk. His feet are ***below*** the desk.

Answers: (1) above; (2) above; (3) across; (4) after or beside; (5) beside; (6) against; (7) across; (8) around or in; (9) around; (10)

in or around; (11) at; (12) in; (13) on . . . on; (14) at . . . at; (15) across; (16) beside or against; (17) at; (18) on; (19) under

Chapter 3 - *Using Prepositions when Talking About Transportation and Traveling*

Using the prepositions ***from*** *-* ***along*** *and when talking about transportation and traveling*



Use ***on*** to talk about trains, buses, and planes. *(Contrast with*

Examples:

- I got ***on*** the bus to go to the center of the city.

- When we got ***on*** the plane, we had a difficult time finding our seats.

- We got ***on*** the train just in time; the train was about to leave.

- The man got ***on*** the train and then ***on*** a plane to New York.

Using *in* and *inside* it *is* true that you are ***inside*** the bus, train or plane when you are traveling, but English speakers say "I'm ***on*** a bus to Seattle", for if someone calls them on their cell phone. It is more common for English speakers to use ***in*** or ***inside*** when talking about public transportation. For example, when they are talking about things that may have happened while they were traveling, or things that were observed ***inside*** the transportation vehicle.

- There was a lot of noise ***inside*** the bus while we were going

- All of the passengers ***in*** the plane were enjoying the movie.

- The lights ***in*** the train were very bright.

In and ***Into*** **:** Use ***in*** and ***into*** to talk about taxis, cars and limousines.

Examples:

- The businesswoman left her house at 10 p.m. and then got ***into*** her car and drove to work.

- The two students waved at the taxi to stop.

When the taxi stopped, they got ***in*** and told the taxi driver where they wanted to go.

By_: Use ***by_*** to talk about how you traveled; what form of transportation.

Examples:

- The family traveled ***by_*** plane to Beijing.

- The boy went to school ***by_*** foot.

- The businesswoman traveled to Frankfurt ***by_*** train.

- We went to the movies ***by_*** bike.

Off_: Use ***off_*** in the phrasal ***to get*** to talk about disembarking and arriving at a destination.

Examples:

- The businessman took the train to New Jersey and ***got off_*** in Newark.

- We are taking a plane to Dallas but we are ***getting off_*** in Reno, Nevada.

(Note: Don't use ***get off_*** when referring to a taxi, car, or limousine (for example, don't say "I ***got off_*** the taxi") Use ***get***

out of or ***arrived in*** a taxi, car or limousine. For example: I ***arrived in*** New York in a taxi. I ***got out of*** the taxi, paid the taxi driver, and went inside the train station to catch the next train to Philadelphia.)

Between **:** Use ***between*** to talk about distance from one location to another location.

Example:

- What is the distance ***between*** New York and Los Angeles? Oh, it's about 2400 miles.

From - to **:** Use ***from - to*** to talk about travel plans or distance ***from*** one location ***to*** another location.

Examples:

- How long does it take to travel ***from*** New York ***to*** Chicago?

- The distance ***from*** Seattle, Washington ***to*** Atlanta, Georgia is about 2,900 miles.

Along **:** Use ***along*** to talk about traveling over a length of road, train track, or route.

- We took a train to Miami, Florida. As we traveled ***along*** the tracks, we could see many farms.

Practice and Review - *Using Prepositions when Talking About Transportation and Traveling*

Directions: *Read this brief story about an English student named Sonya as she travels for the first time in the United States. Read and / or listen carefully to how prepositions are used to talk about transportation and traveling. Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition. Answers are at the end of the chapter.*

Sonya's first trip to Seattle

Sonya came to the U.S. last year to study English (1) _____New York. She arrived ***in*** New York (2) ____May After studying English ***in*** New York, she decided to travel ***across*** the United States using ground transportation like trains, buses, and taxis so that she could see what America looked like.

(3) _____New York, she decided to take a train ***to*** Cleveland, Ohio. On the day that she decided to leave, she got (4) _____ a taxi in front of her hotel and told the driver to take her to the railroad station. When she arrived ***at*** the railroad station she got ***out*** of the taxi, paid the driver, and went (5) _____the train station.

After she bought her ticket ***at*** the ticket counter, she waited ***inside*** the train station for over an hour, until her train arrived.

When the train arrived and opened its doors, Sonya got (6) ____ the train and found a nice seat ***by*** the window.

She took many pictures ***from*** her window seat during the ride to Cleveland. The train was scheduled to stop (7) ____Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Alliance, Ohio before continuing on to Cleveland. When the train stopped ***in*** Pittsburgh, Sonya got (8) _____to have a quick look around.

After getting (9) ___ the train again, Sonya had some dinner. As the train traveled (10) _____ the tracks, the sun was going down. Sonya is going to arrive in Cleveland at dusk, just in time to find a hotel room for the evening.

Answers: (1) in ; (2) on ; (3) In ; (4) in ; (5) into ; (6) on ; (7) in ; (8) out ; (9) on ; (10) along

Chapter 4 - *Using Prepositions when Giving Directions*

*Using the prepositions **around** and **among** when talking about giving directions*

Using prepositions when giving directions

Towards **:** When giving directions, use ***towards*** to mean in the direction of something.

- Could you please tell me how to get to the bank?

Sure. Walk down this street ***towards*** the fountain in the center of the city. Turn left at Warner Street and the bank is right there.

In **:** When giving directions, use ***in*** to mean inside of an area or boundary:

- Could you please tell me how to get to the bank?

Of Walk down this street ***towards*** the fountain ***in*** the center of the city. Turn left at Warner Street and you will see the bank on your right, ***in*** the financial district.

On : *When giving directions, use* ***on*** *with street, road or highway to indicate location; or use* ***on*** *in expressions like* ***on*** *the right.*

- Could you please tell me how to get to the bank?

I'd be happy Walk down this street towards the fountain in the center of the city. Turn left at Warner Street and you will see the bank ***on*** your right, in the financial district. It's ***on*** Warner Street near Sunrise Road.

Near : *When giving directions, use* ***near*** *to mean close to.*

- Could you please tell me how to get to the bank?

Walk down this street towards the fountain in the center of the city. Turn left at Warner Street and you will see the bank on your right, in the financial district. It's on Warner Street ***near*** Sunrise Road.

Across : *When giving directions, use* ***across*** *to mean from one side to the other side:*

- Could you please tell me how to get to the bank?

No Walk down this street towards the fountain in the center of the city. Turn left at Warner Street and you will see the bank on your right, in the financial district. It's on Warner Street near Sunrise Road. You may need to walk ***across*** the street. It's ***across*** from the library and between the food store and the computer store.

When giving directions, use ***at*** to indicate the location of something

- Could you please tell me how to get to the bank?

Sure. From here, walk down this street towards the fountain in the center of the city. Turn left ***at*** Warner Street and you will see the bank on your right, in the financial district. It's on Warner Street near Sunrise Road. You may need to walk across the street. It's across from the library and between the food store and the computer store. There are some trees growing at the front of the bank building. The bank is around the corner from the new park.

When giving directions, use ***around*** to talk about something being close, or something located on the other side of something else.

- Could you please tell me how to get to the bank?

Sure. From here, walk down this street towards the fountain in the center of the city.

Then, turn left at Warner Street and you will see the bank on your right, in the financial district.

It's on Warner Street near Sunrise Road. You may need to walk across the street.

It's across from the library and between the food store and the computer store.

There are some trees growing at the front of the bank building. The bank is ***around*** the corner from the new park, ***around*** where the library is.

Practice and Review - *Using Prepositions when Giving Directions*

Let's read again the discussion about finding the bank. Pay attention to the prepositions and how they are used. See if you can fill in the blanks with the correct answers.

Could you please tell me how to get to the bank?

Sure. ***From*** here, walk ***down*** this street ***towards*** the fountain (1) **___** the center ***of*** the city. Turn left (2) **___** Warner Street and you will see the bank ***on*** your right, ***in*** the financial district. It's ***on*** Warner Street ***near*** Sunrise Road. You may need to walk (3) **_____** the street. It's ***across from*** the library and ***between*** the food store and the computer store. There are some trees growing ***at*** the front of the bank building. The bank is (4) **_____** the corner ***from*** the new park, where the library is.

Answers: (1) in ; (2) on *or* at ; (3) across ; (4) around

Chapter 5 - *Using with and by to Express How Things are Done*

Below we will discuss these important prepositions and provide you with many examples. If you are working in a group, listen carefully to the pronunciation of these expressions in complete sentences.



Some examples of using ***with*** and ***by*** to express how things are done:

- The beautiful dress was made ***by*** hand. Katrina made the beautiful dress ***with*** her own hands.

- The construction worker dug the hole ***by*** hand

meaning: manually, with a shovel in his hands; without the help of a machine.

- The construction worker dug the hole ***with*** his hands

meaning manually, without a shovel or the help of a machine; using his own two hands).

- The family traveled to South Africa ***by*** air. We sent the letter ***by*** airmail. We went to school every day ***by*** foot.

- We walked into the wrong room ***by*** mistake.

- We paid for the meal ***with*** a check. We paid for the meal ***by*** check.

- We paid for the meal ***in***

- We were lucky; ***by*** chance we found the examination room right before the exam was going to begin.

Some rules and examples for using ***with*** and

By is used to talk about the way you travel or how you travel.

Examples:

- I go to work ***by*** bus.

- I went to Europe ***by*** plane.

By is used to talk about how you communicate or send mail or packages.

Example:

- We talked ***by*** phone.

- We sent the package to India ***by*** airmail.

- My friend and I communicate ***by*** email.

By is also used in expressions like: ***By mistake*** (meaning: to do something in error) and ***check*** (meaning: a method of payment)

Example:

- I dialed the wrong number ***by*** I apologized to the person who answered the phone.

- I often pay my bills ***by***

Note: if you pay for something with cash, we often say

Examples:

- I paid for the new car ***in*** cash.

- I paid the bill ***in*** cash.

It is also possible to say ***with***

Example:

- I paid for the tickets ***with***

By chance something that happens that is not planned; luckily or unluckily

Example:

- ***By*** the dress was on sale when we arrived at the shop. We didn't expect to find the dress on sale.

By choice someone's decision or preference to act in a certain way; a decision originating from one's own free will

Example:

- ***By*** choice, I am single (not married)
(meaning I choose not to be married).

By **:** Using ***by*** plus a gerund. Use ***by*** plus a gerund to express a method of doing something

Examples:

- I sent an email ***by*** the send button.

- I repaired the car ***by*** the engine.

With **:** Use ***with*** when you are talking about using something like a tool or an instrument to do something, or when you are talking about using some part of your body to do something.

Examples:

- I fixed the engine ***with*** a wrench.

- I kicked the door ***with*** my foot.

- I sewed the clothing ***with*** a needle.

Let's Practice and Review - *Using the Prepositions **by** and **with***

*Read the following story and fill in the blanks with either **by** or Answers can be found below.*

1. My friend Jaime and I decided to travel to Hawaii for our vacation. We knew that the flight _____plane was going to be a long one from Europe, but we really wanted to go to Hawaii.

2. Before we bought tickets, we decided to contact our travel agent in Barcelona email to get more information about travel to Hawaii. By chance, out travel agent was working her computer when our email arrived, and she answered our email quickly.

3. She answered our email (a) _____telling us that she would be happy to give us a brochure about travel to Hawaii. She said that it was probably a good idea to bring a credit card because paying for everything (b) _____cash was not practical, and it would be dangerous to walk around lots of cash in our pockets. Paying (d) ____personal check was not a good idea either because many stores in Hawaii do not accept checks that are not from a local bank in Hawaii. She said that going to Hawaii Traveler's Checks was a good idea because merchants accepted these in the same way that they accept cash and they were safe to carry in our pockets.

4. When we arrived in Hawaii, we traveled bus from the airport to our hotel room. During the ride from the airport we could see Hawaii's beautiful beaches and parks. It smelled like the air was filled flowers, and it was warm and the sky was very blue.

5. The bus let us off in front of a group of hotels all of our luggage. mistake, we walked into the wrong hotel. When we asked the clerk at the desk about our reservation, the clerk said that our were not on the list.

6. ____chance, there was another person standing at the counter who offered to help. He looked at our itinerary and quickly helped us to find our hotel, which was right next door. He walked with us a little so he could point to the hotel.

7. After getting settled in our hotel room, the rest of the vacation in Hawaii was very exciting. We went ___ bus to see the island.

Answers: (1) by; (2) (a) by; (b) with ; (3) (a) by; (b) with ; (c) with ; (d) by (e) by; (4) (a) by: (b) with ; (5) (a) with (b) by; (6) by; (7) by

Mastering English Prepositions

Section 2 - *Using Prepositions Correctly After Certain Common English Verbs*



Learn to use English prepositions correctly after certain commonly used English verbs.

English has many important expressions that use a combination of verbs plus prepositions or adjectives (beginning with the "be" verb) plus prepositions.

How do you know which preposition to use after these verbs? Well, there are no set rules for this. But don't worry! This Focus On English section will help you to understand and then practice and master using these verb- preposition combinations correctly.

Chapter 1 - *Prepositions Following Verbs Beginning with the Letter **A***

In this chapter you will find the English verbs, beginning with the letter 'a,' that are commonly followed by prepositions. An explanation of the verb / preposition combinations is followed by examples of how English speakers typically use these in a wide variety of English sentences.

There are no set rules that might help you to understand which preposition follows a variety of common English verbs. So here you will find the English verbs that are commonly followed by prepositions. Verb / preposition combinations are followed by some examples of how English speakers typically use these in a wide variety of English sentences.

Using prepositions in expressions with certain verbs Verbs beginning with the letter A

To ***be absent***

- Students should not ***be absent from*** class.

- Alex ***was*** not ***absent from*** the meeting.

To ***be accustomed to*** (something or someone): similar in meaning to *be used to*

Examples:

- The girl ***is accustomed to*** shopping at the store near her house.

- Kaori ***is accustomed to*** walking home from school.

To *be acquainted with* something or someone; similar to being familiar with something or someone:

- I ***am acquainted with*** that man. He is the one who brought the package to our house.

- We ***were acquainted with*** the school's rules because we went to an orientation.

To ***admire*** (something or someone) ***for*** doing something or having a certain quality:

- I ***admire him for*** getting a high grade on his exam.

- Gina ***admired her mother for*** getting a university degree.

To be ***afraid of*** (something or someone):

Examples:

- I ***am afraid of*** walking home alone in the dark.

- Lucy ***is afraid of*** swimming in the ocean.

To ***agree with*** (something or someone)

- I ***agree with*** my friend. We both have the opinion about politics.

- Sally ***agreed with*** her advisor when her advisor told her she should change jobs.

To be ***ashamed of*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- I ***am ashamed*** my friend for stealing the car.

- Clarence ***was ashamed*** the bad grade that he got on the

To be ***amazed at*** or ***by*** (something or someone)

- I ***am amazed at*** how hard he studied for that exam; almost five hours every night!

- The crowd ***was amazed at*** the circus act.

To be ***angry at*** or ***with*** (something or someone)

- I ***am angry with*** / ***at*** my girlfriend for not telling me she was dating someone else.

- The tourists were angry ***with*** / ***at*** the tour guide for speaking too quickly.

To ***apologize for*** (doing something wrong) or ***to*** (something or someone)

- I ***apologized*** to the teacher ***for*** being late. I ***apologized for*** being late.

- The policeman ***apologized*** to his boss ***for*** arresting the wrong person.

To ***apply to*** or ***for***

Examples:

- I ***applied to*** the school for admission. I ***applied for*** admission.

- Sam ***applied for*** a new job.

To ***approve of*** (something or someone)

- My company ***approves of*** the way I dress when I come to work.

- The passengers on the plane ***approved of*** the way the stewardess did her job.

To ***argue with*** (something or someone)

- I ***argued with*** my boss about the project deadline.

- She ***argued with*** her mother about staying out past 10 p.m..

To ***arrive at*** or ***in*** a location / building; *in* a city or country)

- I ***arrived at*** school at 8 She will ***arrive in*** the United States on Wednesday.

- The hockey team ***arrived at*** the arena at 4:30 p.m..

To ***ask for*** or ***about*** (something or someone)

- I ***asked*** him ***for*** a pencil.

- I ***asked*** her ***about*** the exam that she took yesterday.

- The little boy ***asked*** his grandpa ***for*** some candy.

To be ***aware of*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- He ***is aware of*** the penalty for breaking the law.

- We ***were aware of*** the high prices before we entered the store.

To be ***awful at*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- He ***is awful at*** cooking. It's lucky that he has a wife that can cook.

- She ***is awful at*** drawing pictures. She's better at writing.

Let's Practice and Review

Read the following story and fill in the blanks with the correct preposition. Answers can be found below.

1. Our boss ***approves*** _____ the way we completed the report.

2. James ***asked*** his teacher _____the exam yesterday.

3. My friend ***agrees*** _____ me.

4. I ***am ashamed*** _____ our team for losing so badly.

5. I ***admire him*** _____ being brave during the match.

6. Sally ***is afraid*** _____ walking home alone in the dark.

7. Tricia ***is accustomed*** _____ riding the bus home from school.

8. Four students were ***absent*** _____school.

9. Jim ***was angry*** _____his girlfriend for not telling him that she was dating someone else.

10. The tourists ***were amazed*** _____ how big the building was.

11. The student ***applied*** ___ the school for admission.

12. I ***apologized*** _____ the bus driver ***for*** my extra baggage.

13. Jackie ***argued*** _____ her boss about the new project.

Answers: (1) of; (2) about; (3) with; (4) of ; (5) for; (6) of; (7) to ; (8) from; (9) at; (10) at; (11) to; (12) to; (13) with

Chapter 2 - *Prepositions Following Verbs Beginning with **B** and **C***

Using prepositions in expressions with certain verbs - B and C

To be ***bad for*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- Smoking ***is bad for*** your health.

- Factory pollution ***is bad for*** the environment.

To ***believe in*** (something or someone)

- I ***believe in*** good luck.

- The people ***believed in*** its government.

To ***belong to*** (something or someone)

- The pen ***belongs to*** me.

- The sports car ***belongs to*** the movie star.

To be ***bored with*** or ***by*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- I'm ***bored with*** working every day.

- I'm ***bored by*** that TV show. Can we change the channel?

To ***borrow*** something ***from*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- Tommy Twoshoes ***borrowed*** $10 ***from*** Julio ***lent*** $10 to Tommy Twoshoes.

- Alicia ***borrowed*** Jim's bicycle ***from*** him.

To be ***careful of*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- ***Be careful of*** the fast-moving cars when you cross the street!

- Calvin told me to ***be careful of*** drinking tap water when traveling.

To ***compare to*** or ***with*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- When I ***compare*** swimming ***with*** running, I think that swimming is more difficult.

- ***Compared to*** our team, the opponent's team looks weak.

To ***complain to*** or about something or someone)

Examples:

- I ***complained to*** my teacher ***about*** the cold air conditioning in the room.

- Ginger ***complained about*** the bad food in the restaurant.

To be ***composed of*** (something)

Examples:

- Coca-Cola ***is composed of*** (made of) mostly sugar.

- Bread ***is composed of*** mostly flour.

To ***concentrate on*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- The student has an exam the next day so he ***concentrated on*** studying.

- The athlete ***concentrates on*** winning.

To be ***concerned about*** (something or someone)

Example:

- She ***is concerned about*** her weight. She is gaining weight.

- His parents ***were concerned about*** his poor grades in school.

To ***consist of*** (something) (meaning: made up of certain ingredients)

Examples:

- A good meal ***consists of*** fish, vegetables and rice.

- A good report ***consists of*** lots of research and hard work.

To be ***content with*** (something or someone) (meaning: to be happy with)

Examples:

- The quiet, simple man ***is content with*** his life.

- Amy ***is content with*** her new car.

To be ***crazy about*** (something or someone)

Example:

- She ***is crazy about*** ice She really likes to eat ice

- ***crazy about*** her boyfriend.

To be ***curious about*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- The customer ***was curious about*** the price of the car.

- The police detective ***was curious about*** the blood on the floor.

Let's Practice and Review

Read the following story and fill in the blanks with the correct preposition. Answers can be found at the bottom.

1. The red Ferrari ***belongs*** _____ me.

2. Fiberglass ***is composed*** _____ silica fibers.

3. The student ***was curious*** _____the cost of the textbook.

4. Good Italian pasta sauce ***consists*** _____ tomatoes, garlic, olive oil, and seasoning.

5. His father ***was concerned*** _____the cost of a new roof for his house.

6. The children ***believe*** _____ magic.

7. Drinking too much alcohol ***is bad*** _____ your health.

8. Tim Evans $20 _____Hiro.

9. ***Be careful*** ____ the snake on the ground right next to you!

10. Jenny ***complained*** _____ her teacher _____the noise in the next room.

11. My friend his car _____mine and decided to buy a new car.

12. The swim team ***concentrated*** _____ learning better techniques.

Answers: (1) to; (2) of; (3) about; (4) of ; (5) about; (6) in; (7) for ; (8) from; (9) of; (10) to . . . about; (11) to; (12) on

Chapter 3 - *Prepositions Following Verbs Beginning with **D** and **E***

Using prepositions in expressions with certain verbs - D and E

To ***depend on*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- Car motors ***depend on*** gasoline or diesel fuel to run.

- She ***depends on*** her friends for help with her homework.

To be *devoted to* (something or someone; to be loyal to)

Examples:

- She ***is devoted to*** her husband.

- The professor ***is devoted to*** his research.

To be ***different from*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- Coffee is different from tea.

- Apples are different from oranges.

To ***disagree with*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- I ***disagreed with*** him about smoking in the classroom.

- The lawyers ***disagreed with*** each other in court.

To be ***disappointed in*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- I ***was disappointed in*** our team. They lost the game.

- Jenny ***was disappointed in*** the quality of the fruit at the market.

To ***discuss*** (something) *with* (someone)

Examples:

- I ***discussed*** the problem ***with*** my boss.

- The students ***discussed*** the assignment ***with*** the teacher.

To ***divide*** something into)

Examples:

- I ***divided*** the cake ***into*** two pieces so my friend could have some

- The manager ***divided*** the workers ***into*** three groups.

To be ***divorced from*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- The woman ***was divorced from*** her husband.

- They ***have been divorced from*** each other for two years.

To ***dream of*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- She ***dreamed of*** going to the South Pacific for a vacation.

- The couple ***dreamed of*** having their own house in the future.

To be ***engaged to*** (someone)

Examples:

- The man and woman ***were engaged to*** each other. They planned to get married in one month.

- Alex and Cynthia ***were engaged to*** each other in March, but broke off the engagement in April.

To be ***equal to*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- His English skills ***are equal to*** her English skills.

- The two soccer teams ***are equal to*** each other in match records.

To ***escape from*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- The prisoner ***escaped from*** prison and the police cannot find him.

- The young dog ***escaped from*** the cage and ran away.

To be ***excited about*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- I ***am excited about*** my summer vacation. I am going to Asia.

- We ***are excited about*** going to Hawaii.

To ***excuse*** (someone)

Examples:

- My boss ***excused*** me ***for*** being late for work.

- Frank ***excused*** his friend ***for*** not wanting to go on the hike.

To be ***exhausted from*** (something)

Examples:

- I ***was exhausted from*** working in the garden all day.

- Our team ***was exhausted from*** playing so hard in the competition.

Let's Practice and Review

Read the following story and fill in the blanks with the correct preposition. Answers can be found at the bottom of page.

1. I ***divided*** the cake _____ five pieces so all of my friends could have some.

2. Our team lost. I ***was*** really ***disappointed*** ____ our team.

3. We ***discussed*** the plan superior.

4. The players ***disagreed*** _____ the referee.

5. Monty ***is devoted*** ____ playing the violin.

6. Airline pilots ***depend*** ____ ground control to help them land safely.

7. Surfing ***is different*** _____ snow boarding.

8. My brother ***dreamed*** ___ becoming an engineer.

9. Toby's grades ***are equal*** ____ the best grades in the school.

10. We are in love. My girlfriend and I ***are engaged*** ____ each other.

11. The gorilla ***escaped*** ____ its cage and is now somewhere in the city.

12. The child ***was excited*** _____ going to the zoo.

13. The workers ***were exhausted*** _____ working in the sun all day.

Answers: (1) into; (2) in; (3) with; (4) with; (5) to; (6) on; (7) from ; (8) of or about (9) to; (10) to; (11) from; (12) about ; (13) from

Chapter 4 - *Prepositions following verbs beginning with and* ***I***

Using prepositions in expressions with certain verbs - F, G, H, and I

To be ***familiar with*** (something)

Examples:

- I ***am familiar with*** the laws in my
(meaning: I know what the laws are in my country).

To ***forgive*** (someone) ***for*** (something)

Examples:

- I ***forgive*** you ***for*** coming late.

- Rodney ***forgave*** the barber ***for*** the bad haircut.

To be ***fond of*** (something)

Examples:

- I ***am fond of*** Italian food. I eat it almost every night.

- Sarah ***is*** very ***fond of*** her boyfriend.

To be ***friendly with / to*** (someone)

Examples:

- The people of New Zealand ***are*** very ***friendly to*** foreigners.

- The woman who works at the pub ***is*** very ***friendly with*** the customers.

To be ***frightened of*** or ***by*** (something)

Examples:

- I ***am frightened of*** the dark.

- She ***is frightened by*** his behavior.

To be ***full of*** (something)

Examples:

- The car ***is full of*** gas.

- The arena ***is full of*** people.

To ***get rid of*** (something)

Examples:

- I am going to ***get rid of*** my old pants because they have too many holes in them.

- The company president wants to ***get rid of*** employees who are not working hard.

To be ***glad about*** (somewhere)

Examples:

- Your team just won the Wow, ***glad about*** that.

- Kathy ***was glad about*** finishing school.

To be ***good at*** (something)

Examples:

- He's ***good at*** speaking English.

- Mr. Frankel ***is good at*** teaching English.

To be ***good for*** (something)

Examples:

- That hammer ***is good for*** pounding nails into wood

- Yoga ***is good for*** your health.

To be ***gone from*** (somewhere)

Examples:

- I'll ***be gone from*** the office for two hours.

- Hiromi ***was gone from*** school for a week because of illness.

To ***graduate from*** (somewhere)

Examples:

- She ***graduated from*** university last year with a degree in mathematics.

- John and I ***graduated from*** high school last year.

To ***happen to*** (do something)

Examples:

- When you were in school, did you ***happen to*** see your friend, (***Happen to*** means 'by chance').

- When Joy was at the mall she ***happened to*** see her friend Alice.

To be ***happy about*** (something)

Examples:

- The student ***was*** very ***happy about*** getting an A on the exam.

- The shopkeeper ***was happy about*** all the customers that came to his store.

To ***hear about*** (something)

Examples:

- Did you ***hear about*** the bank robbery yesterday?

- We ***heard about*** the cancellation of the concert and we were not happy.

To ***hear from*** (someone)

Examples:

- She ***heard from*** her good friend in Japan. She got an email from her yesterday.

- I haven't ***heard from*** my brother in six months. I hope he's okay.

To ***help*** (someone) ***with*** (something)

Examples:

- I will ***help*** you ***with*** your homework.

- The clerk ***helped*** me ***with*** filling out the form.

To ***hide*** (something) ***from*** (someone)

Examples:

- He ***hid*** her birthday gift ***from*** her until the day of her birthday.

- The boy ***hid from*** his friend in order to surprise him when he arrived.

To ***hope for*** (something)

Examples:

- We ***are hoping for*** nice weather tomorrow because we want to have a picnic.

- The students who didn't study were ***hoping for*** an easy exam.

To ***insist on*** (something)

Examples:

- Because it was dark, the kind taxi driver ***insisted on*** walking us to our door.

- The young man ***insisted on*** driving the car before buying it.

To be ***interested in*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- The business student ***is interested in*** learning to speak English well.

- My sister and I ***are interested in*** investing in real estate.

To ***introduce*** (someone) ***to*** (someone)

Examples:

- I would like to ***introduce*** you ***to*** my friend, Stephan.

- Stefan ***introduced*** his friend ***to*** me.

To ***invite*** (someone) ***to*** (something)

Examples:

- I would like to ***invite*** you ***to*** my party.

- Shawn was ***invited to*** William's party.

To be ***involved in*** (something) ***with*** (someone)

Examples:

- We are working together to finish this school project; we ***are involved in*** this school project.

- The beautiful lady ***is involved with*** the prince of England. (Meaning: she is having a relationship with the prince.)

Let's Practice and Review:

Read the following story and fill in the blanks with the correct preposition. Answers can be found at the bottom of the page.

1. ***good*** _____ English grammar.

2. My friend Bill is going to ***get rid*** ____ his old pants because they have too many holes in them.

3. Gene ***is frightened*** ____ lizards.

4. You just won the lottery! Wow, I am sure you ***are glad*** _____ that.

5. Brad ***graduated*** _____ English school last year and can now speak English very well.

6. The boss ***will be gone*** _____ the office for a day.

7. When you were shopping, did you ***happen*** _____ see your friend, Aiko?

8. Janet ***was*** very ***happy*** _____ getting a passing grade on the exam.

9. Did you ***hear*** _____ the terrible news yesterday?

10. The doorman ***insisted*** ____ carrying our luggage.

11. Jeff ***hid*** his girlfriend's birthday gift _____her until the day of her graduation.

12. Claudia ***is interested*** ____ learning to speak English well.

13. The boss wants to ***invite*** you _____the company party.

14. Four of us ***are involved*** ____ the community project.

15. I would like to ***introduce*** you _____my friend, Frank.

16. He ***was familiar*** _____ the design of the engine.

Answers: (1) at; (2) of; (3) of; (4) about; (5) from; (6) from; (7) to; (8) about; (9) about (10) on; (11) from; (12) in; (13) to; (14) in; (15) to; (16) with

Chapter 5 - *Prepositions following verbs beginning with and* ***M***

Using prepositions in expressions with certain verbs - K, L, and M

To be ***kind to*** (someone)

Examples:

- The young boy ***was*** very ***kind to*** the old lady and helped her to walk across the busy street.

- The clerk in the candy store ***was*** always ***kind to*** children. He gave them a free piece of candy when they into the store.

To ***know about*** (something)

Examples:

- The students didn't ***know about*** the test that the teacher planned for next Tuesday.

- We were new students and didn't ***know about*** the rules in the school.

To ***laugh at*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- The people on the sidewalk ***laughed at*** the funny car driving down the street.

- All the students ***laughed at*** him because he said something funny.

To ***listen to / for*** (someone or something)

Example:

- We ***listened to*** the rap music.

- We walked along the street late at night in the dark and we ***listened for*** any unusual noise.

Meaning: we ***listened for*** something means that we were trying to hear something

To ***look at / for*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- We ***looked at*** the ocean for a hour.

- We were ***looking for*** the little girl. She was lost in the big department store.

To ***look forward to*** (something)

Examples:

- We are ***looking forward to*** going to Hawaii next month.

- Janice and Hiro were ***looking forward to*** the hiking trip.

To be ***mad at*** (someone)

Examples:

- My boss ***was mad at*** me because I didn't finish my work on time.

- The customer ***was mad at*** the bartender for giving him the wrong drink.

To be ***made of*** (something)

Examples:

- The house ***was made of*** wood.

- The jar ***was made of*** glass.

To be ***made for*** (someone)

Examples:

- The dress ***was made for*** that lady.

- These shoes ***were made*** especially ***for*** me.

To be ***married to*** (someone)

Examples:

- Ted ***is married to*** Alice.

- Darlene ***is married to*** Don.

To ***matter to*** (someone)

Examples:

- The project seemed small, but it ***mattered to*** the company.

means: the project was important to the company even though it was a small project.

- Money doesn't ***matter to*** some people.

means: money is not important to some people.

To be ***the matter with*** (someone or something)

Examples:

- I don't know what ***is the matter with*** this car, it won't start up!

Means: The car has a problem and the motor won't start

- My brother was sick, but the doctors didn't know what ***was the matter with*** him.

To ***multiply*** (this) ***by*** (that)

Examples:

- If you ***multiply*** 10 ***by*** 10 the answer will be 100.

- ***Multiply*** 2 ***by*** 27 and the answer is 54.

To ***add*** (this) ***to*** / ***and*** (that)

Examples:

- If you ***add*** 10 ***to*** 10 the solution will be 20.

- ***Add*** 5 ***and*** 45 and the answer is 50.

To ***subtract*** (this) ***from*** (that)

Example:

- ***Subtract*** 10 ***from*** 15 and the answer is 5.

- If you ***subtract*** 100 ***from*** 1000 you get 900.

To ***divide*** (this) ***by*** (that)

Example:

- ***Divide*** 10 ***by*** 2 and the answer is 5.

- When 20 is ***divided by*** 2 the answer is 10.

Let's Practice and Review

Read and / or listen to the following story and fill in the blanks with the correct preposition. Answers can be found in this chapter (above).

1. ***Subtract*** 15 _____30 and the answer is 15.

2. If you ***add*** 20 _____30 the solution will be 50.

3. What ***is the matter*** _____ this pen? It doesn't write!

4. Kaori ***is married*** _____ Kazu.

5. His wife ***was mad*** _____ him because he didn't take the garbage outside.

6. The building ***was made*** _____ stone.

7. The wedding dress ***was made*** ____ Yukiko.

8. If you ***multiply*** 5 ____5 the answer will be 25.

9. ***Divide*** 100 ____50 and the answer is 2.

10. The children are ***looking forward*** ____ going to the park tomorrow.

11. The people at he circus ***laughed*** ___ the funny clown.

12. We sat in the audience and ***listened*** ____ the orchestra.

Answers: (1) from; (2) and; (3) with; (4) to; (5) at (6) of; (7) for; (8) by *or* times; (9) by (10) to; (11) at; (12) to

Chapter 6 - *Prepositions following verbs beginning with and* ***Q***

Using prepositions in expressions with certain verbs - N, O, P, and Q

To be ***nervous about*** (something)

Examples:

- The actress ***was nervous about*** going on stage.

- The students ***were nervous about*** the exam.

To be ***nice to*** (someone)

Examples:

- The owner of the store ***was nice to*** the children and gave them some candy bars.

- Chris ***is*** always ***nice to*** his cousins.

To be ***opposed to*** (something)

Examples:

- The people of that country ***were opposed to*** high taxes.

- The local people of the island ***were opposed to*** having visitors.

To ***pay for*** (something)

Examples:

- The clerk in the food store waited for the man to ***pay for*** the food.

- Please ***pay for*** your groceries at the checkout counter.

To be ***patient with*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- The teacher ***was patient with*** the new student.

- My sister didn't do well in school, but the teachers were patient with her.

To be ***pleased with*** / ***about*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- Tomoko ***was pleased with*** the new bracelet that she just bought.

- She ***was*** also ***pleased about*** getting such a good price.

To ***point at*** (something or someone)

Examples:

- The little girl ***pointed at*** the bird in the sky.

- It is not polite to ***point at*** someone.

To be ***polite to*** (someone)

Examples:

- Jim was very ***polite to*** the older woman.

- It is not ***polite to*** point at someone.

To be ***prepared for***

Examples:

- Students, please ***be prepared for*** the final exam next week.

- The people of the town ***were prepared for*** the big storm.

To ***protect*** (something / someone) ***from*** (something /

Examples:

- The mother ***protected*** the child ***from*** the cold rain with an umbrella.

- The police ***protect*** us ***from*** crime.

To be ***proud of*** (someone or something)

Examples:

- Keoki was very ***proud of*** his daughter because she received good grades on her exams.

- We are ***proud of*** our soccer team.

To be ***qualified for*** (something)

Examples:

- Eric ***was qualified for*** his new computer job. He had 4 years of training in the computer field.

- Joel was not ***qualified for*** the job he was doing.

Let's Practice and Review

Read the following story and fill in the blanks with the correct preposition. Answers can be found below.

1. Jerry was very ***polite*** _____ the monks.

2. The teacher ***was patient*** _____ the beginning English students.

3. We ***paid*** _____ the food and left the restaurant.

4. Allison ***was pleased*** _____ the clothes she bought at the mall.

5. The guide ***pointed*** _____ the mountains in the east.

6. We ***weren't prepared*** _____ the big storm that came quickly.

7. The applicant ***wasn't qualified*** _____ the job he wanted.

8. My friend was very ***proud*** _____ his sister because she received good grades on her exams.

9. The business ***was nervous*** _____ making the investment.

10. The shop owner ***was nice*** _____ everyone who shopped there.

11. The president of the company *is opposed* _____ hiring more employees.

Answers: (1) to; (2) with; (3) for; (4) with; (5) at; (6) for; (7) for; (8) of; (9) about (10) to; (11) to

Chapter 7 - *Prepositions following verbs beginning with and* ***S***

Using prepositions in expressions with certain verbs - R and S

To be ***ready for*** (someone or something)

Examples:

- The doctor ***was ready for*** the next patient. We ***are ready for*** the long hike up the mountain. We have out boots and hiking

- When you are camping in the wild, you should be prepared for anything.

To be ***related to*** (someone or something)

Examples:

- Bob Moore ***is*** not ***related to*** Kathy Moore. They come from different families.

- This bad weather ***is*** not ***related to*** the storm that we heard about.

To ***rely on*** (someone or something)

Examples:

- The employee was never on time and could not do his job right. His boss could not ***rely on*** him (could not trust him) to do a good job.

- We ***relied on*** our tour guide to take us back to the hotel.

To be ***responsible for*** (someone / something)

Examples:

- Jim was the manager of his division in his company. He ***was responsible for*** his employees and their work.

- Peter ***is responsible for*** bringing the potato chips to the party.

To be ***sad about*** (something)

Examples:

- The little girl ***was sad about*** loosing her dog.

- Jennifer ***was sad about*** missing the bus.

To be ***safe from*** (something)

Examples:

- The family went into the storm shelter to ***be safe from*** the hurricane.

- Janet uses an anti-virus program on her computer to ***be safe from*** viruses.

To be ***satisfied with*** (someone /something)

Examples:

- Tomoko just bought a new car. She ***was*** very ***satisfied with*** the car. The car was just the right color and was easy to operate.

- Julie ***was satisfied with*** her grade on the exam.

To be ***scared of / by*** (someone / something)

Example:

- The people in the city ***were scared of*** the monster.

- The young children ***were scared by*** the loud noise on the street.

To ***search for*** (someone / something)

Examples:

- Jane could not find her car keys. She ***searched for*** them in her bedroom, living room and bathroom, but she could not find them.

- The police ***searched for*** the missing child.

To ***separate*** (someone / something) ***from*** (someone / something)

Examples:

- The woman bought some beautiful red flowers and green flowers. The florist put all of the flowers together in one bag. When the woman took the flowers home she ***separated*** the green flowers ***from*** the red flowers.

- The contest judges ***separate*** the good performances ***from*** the bad performances.

To be ***sick of*** (someone / something)

Examples:

- The student ***was sick of*** doing homework.

- Jack ***was sick of*** eating the same thing for lunch every day.

To be ***similar to*** (someone / something)

Examples:

- Janet went to the clothing shop to buy a dress. The clerk showed her a dress that ***was*** very ***similar to*** a dress that she already owned.

- This sports car ***is*** very ***similar to*** that one.

To be ***slow at*** (something)

Examples:

- The student ***was slow at*** learning math.

- In the beginning, the visitors ***were*** a little ***slow at*** understanding our culture.

To be ***surprised at / by*** (someone / something)

Examples:

- Hiroko ***was surprised at*** the store's high prices for food.

- Everyone ***was surprised at*** how expensive the dress was.

To ***be / feel sorry for*** (someone / something) ***about*** (something)

Examples:

- The lost all of their possessions in the terrible storm. We ***feel*** very ***sorry for*** them.

- The boy broke the window with his soccer ball. He ***was*** very ***sorry for*** doing this.

- The thief ***was very sorry about*** stealing the little girl's money.

To ***speak to*** (someone) ***about*** (something)

Examples:

- Nicole ***spoke to*** Tom about the problem she was having at work.

- Maya ***spoke to*** her travel agent about her trip to Europe.

To ***stare at*** (someone / something)

Examples:

- Never ***stare at*** the sun.

- The two lovers ***stared at*** each other for a long time.

To be ***sure of*** (someone / something)

Examples:

- The student ***was sure of*** his answer. He wrote the answer on the test paper.

- Sandra was a confident person; she ***was sure of*** herself.

Let's Practice and Review

Read the following story and fill in the blanks with the correct preposition. Answers can be found on the bottom of the page.

1. Christine Smith ***is related*** ___ Allen Brock. They are brother and sister. Smith is Christine's married

2. You should not ***rely*** ____ other people to help you.

3. Stephan ***was responsible*** _____ maintenance of the company's cars.

4. Julie ***was sad*** _____ having to leave Hawaii after her vacation.

5. I went to my doctor and got a flu vaccine to ***be safe*** _____ the flu virus.

6. Allan's job at the factory is to ***separate*** the large parts _____the small parts.

7. Annja ***searched*** _____ her car keys but could not find them.

8.The children at the zoo ***were scared*** _____ the lion.

9. Peter ***was satisfied*** _____ the car he just bought.

10.The operator ***was sick*** ____ hearing complaints from callers.

11. Jean ***was surprised*** _____ the number of people who came to her party.

12. We ***feel*** very ***sorry*** _____ people who lose family members.

13. The students ***were slow*** ____ learning the new lesson.

14. A girl came to the party wearing a dress that ***was*** very ***similar*** ___ the dress that Kyoko was wearing.

15. The team ***was sure*** ____ it's ability to win the soccer match.

16. Never *stare* _____ a stranger. It's impolite.

Answers: (1) to; (2) on; (3) for; (4) at; (5) from; (6) from; (7) for; (8) of; (9) with (10) of; (11) at; (12) for (13) at; (14) to; (15) of; (16) at

Chapter 8 - Prepositions following verbs beginning with **T** through **Z**

Using prepositions in expressions with certain verbs - T through Z

To ***take care of*** (someone / something)

Examples:

- The mother ***took care of*** the child.

- The businessman ***took care of*** the details needed to complete the business transaction.

To ***talk to / with*** (someone) ***about*** (something)

Examples:

- The boy's father ***talked to*** him about his poor grades in school.

- The new employee ***talked with*** some of her colleagues about her new job.

To ***tell*** (someone) ***about*** (someone / something)

Examples:

- The police ***told*** everyone ***about*** the prisoner that escaped.

- Mary told Christine about the new family who moved into the neighborhood.

To be ***terrible at*** (something)

Examples:

- Jack ***was terrible at*** math. He never got good grades on his math

- When I was in high school, I ***was terrible at*** history.

To be ***terrified by*** / ***of*** (someone / something)

Examples:

- The little girl ***was terrified of*** the dark. She would never go outside of the house after dark.

- Jan's mother ***was terrified by*** snakes.

To ***thank*** (someone) ***for*** (something)

Example:

- The old lady ***thanked*** the boy ***for*** helping her to cross the street.

To be *tired of* (someone or something) *to* ***sick***

Example:

- The little boy ***was tired of*** eating vegetables at dinner time.

To be ***tired from*** (something)

Examples:

- The man ***was tired from*** working so hard.

- Andrew ***was tired from*** the workout.

To ***travel to*** (somewhere)

Examples:

- The girl and her boyfriend ***traveled to*** Las Vegas together.

- We plan on ***traveling to*** Indonesia this summer.

To be ***used to*** (something)

Examples:

- Jim walks to school every day. Walking to school was not a problem for Jim because he ***was used to*** doing it. (Same meaning as accustomed to)

- Megumi ***is used to*** spending many hours studying English.

To ***wait for*** (someone or something)

Examples:

- The people in the theater ***waited for*** the show to begin.

- We ***waited for*** the train for one hour.

To ***wait on*** (someone)

Examples:

- The waiter in the restaurant ***waited on*** the customers.

- The stewardess ***waited on*** the airline passengers.

To be ***worried about*** (someone or something) *(similar to* ***worry***

Examples:

- The mother ***was worried about*** her sick child.

- Toby ***was worried about*** his friend who was in the hospital.

Let's Practice and Review

Read the following story and fill in the blanks with the correct preposition. Answers can be found at the bottom of this chapter .

1. The nurse ***waited*** ____ her seriously ill patients.

2. The principal of the school ***was used*** ____ hearing the excuses of the late students.

3. We ***traveled*** _____ Honolulu last year.

4. The hikers ***were tired*** _____ walking so much.

5. The big, strong man ***was terrified*** _____ spiders.

6. The manager ***thanked*** his workers _____their hard work.

7. The policeman ***talked*** ____ Jenny _____ her expired drivers license.

8. Fred ***was terrible*** _____ English grammar.

9. The lady next door ***told*** everyone _____Mika's new boyfriend.

10. The baby sitter ***took care*** ____ the two children.

11. Everyone at the bus stop ***waited*** _____ the 12:05 bus.

12. The students **were worried** _____ the exam.

Answers: (1) on; (2) to; (3) to; (4) of; (5) of; (6) for; (7) to . . . about; (8) at; (9) about (10) of; (11) for; (12) about

Mastering English Prepositions

Section 3 - *Understanding the meanings and correct usage of all common English prepositions*



Learn to use English prepositions correctly in all kinds of English sentences and conversation.

In this section, the student will find a comprehensive listing of the most commonly used prepositions in the English language, along with clear explanations about how to use them in different types of English sentences and plenty of examples to reinforce understanding.

Chapter 1 - *English prepositions beginning with the letters **A** and **B***

This is a comprehensive listing of the most common English prepositions. The prepositions are followed by a usage explanation. After each explanation there are examples to help reinforce the correct use of the preposition in common English sentences.

Common English prepositions beginning with the letters A and B

Below we will explain these commonly used prepositions, give you many examples and give you some practice at the end of the chapters.

About

usually we use the word ***about*** before a topic or person

Examples:

- They are talking ***about*** the plan for next week.

- The newspaper story is ***about*** the bank robbery that took place last night.

- She is not talking ***about*** you she is talking about Betty.

About can also mean preparing to or getting ready to do something:

Example:

- She was ***about*** to leave when suddenly it began to rain.

Sometimes we use the word ***about*** to help describe a noun:

Example:

- There is something scary that dark house.

Other non-prepositional uses for the word ***about:***

Examples:

- He did an (meaning: he changed his direction by 180 degrees).

- It's ***about*** time! You're late! We have been waiting for more than three hours.

Note: can also be used as an adverb. The adverb ***about*** means almost:

Example:

- They are ***about*** done with the exam.

Above

(the opposite of ***above*** is

usually, ***above*** means higher than or over:

Examples

- Oh look at that bird flying ***above*** our heads.

- Look, this is very easy to understand. The ceiling is ***above*** us and the floor is beneath us. Got it?

- There are no subways in this city; all the trains travel ***above*** ground. (Our city has a good subway system; the trains travel ***below*** ground.)

Sometimes ***above*** is used in a sentence to talk about a good person that has good values and judgment and would not do something wrong:

Example:

- The Buddhist monk is ***above*** stealing.

- A virtuous person is ***above*** hurting others.

Sometimes ***above*** is used like in the above sentence but to mean that a person wrongly believes that they are better than, for example, the law.

Example:

- The politician thought that he was ***above*** the law. (meaning: the politician wrongly believed that he could commit crimes because he thought that he was higher than the law).

Sometimes when you are reading something and it says to see something This means to look for something that was written before the section you are now reading.

Example:

- If you are having trouble using your new mp3 player, please see the ***above*** instructions.

Across

Across is usually used to talk about movement from one side to the other side of a space, area, or location:

Examples:

- The man walked ***across*** the street to visit his secret lover.

- The tiny boat sailed ***across*** the great Pacific Ocean.

- The satellite flew ***across*** the sky at great speed.

Across is often used to mean directly facing something or someone:

Example:

- The bank was directly ***across*** from the food store. *(Meaning: the bank's location and the food store's location were across from or facing each other)*

Other uses for the preposition

Example:

- I came ***across*** a big sale while I was at the shopping mall. Meaning: I discovered something I didn't expect to find while I was shopping. Please see Phrasal Verbs for more information.

After

(the opposite of ***after*** is

After is usually used to mean following or later than:

Examples:

- There was a big dinner ***after*** the wedding ceremony, and the bride and groom were toasted many times.

- Dessert came ***after*** the main course, and it was delicious.

- I will be ready to go ***after*** 9 a.m.; please don't rush me.

- ***After*** breakfast, we went to the zoo and saw the new baby elephant.

After is used to mean something that happens continuously:

Example:

- The student studied night ***after*** night for the final exam.

After is often used to mean to chase or to be in pursuit of:

Example:

- The soccer player ran ***after*** the ball.

After can be used as a conjunction to connect two parts of a sentence:

Example:

- The teacher congratulated me ***after*** I received a high mark.

Please see Gerunds and Infinitives for more information about gerunds that follow prepositions.

Against

Against can mean something forcibly hitting into or touching something else:

Example:

- He hit the tennis ball ***against*** the wall, but he didn't hit it very hard.

Against is usually used to mean to lean on or touch something or someone for support:

Example:

- You are such a lazy husband. The ladder is ***against*** the wall in the garage. Use this ladder to help to paint the house.

Against can mean in opposition to something:

Example:

- The people of the town were ***against*** higher taxes.

Against can also mean something that may not be an advantage; a disadvantage:

Example:

- They tried to repair the railroad tracks as quickly as possible, but time was ***against*** them; the next train would soon arrive.

Other uses for the preposition ***against*** as in this English expression meaning 'impossible or unlikely':

Example:

- ***Against*** all odds, Hiro won the tournament.

Ahead of

Ahead of usually means to be located in front of:

Example:

- Kazu was ahead of Katrina in the lunch line. Meaning, Katrina was closer to where lunch was being served than Kazu was.

Ahead of can sometimes mean that someone or something is more advance than someone or something else:

Example:

- The student registered for classes one week late and so the other students were ***ahead of*** him.

Meaning: the other students had already been studying for one week. The new student was new to the class work.

Along

Along usually means following the boundary of something:

Example:

- There were beautiful flowers (all) ***along*** the road.

Along can mean together:

Example:

- My friend Don decided to drive to Dallas, Texas. I decided to go ***along*** for the ride.

Please refer to Phrasal Verbs book for more information about the word

Among

Among usually means surrounded by, included in a group, or many things or people in a group:

Examples:

- See, over there. You can see the house ***among*** the trees. There are ghosts in that house.

- The party was a lot of fun. I was ***among*** my friends so I felt very comfortable. We had a blast.

Around

Around can mean: follow a route (sometimes almost circular) to a desired location; located on the farther side of:

Example:

- The shopping center is ***around*** the corner from the bank, and two stores down from Wal-Mart. It's close to the park.

Around can mean following a boundary in a circular direction:

Examples:

- For exercise we walk ***around*** the park, and then we do yoga and tai chi.

- The man traveled ***around*** the world by foot.

Around can mean walking or moving in many different directions randomly:

Example:

- We walked ***around*** the car show for about an hour and then we went home. We saw many interesting concept cars there.

refer to the Focus on English book about phrasal verbs, and Focus on English book about idioms and expressions for more information about the word

As

As *can mean: in the role of:*

Example:

- Marco works ***as*** a mail clerk for the postal service.

Please refer to the Focus on English book about phrasal verbs, and the Focus on English book about idioms and expressions, for more information about the word

At

At is often used in expressing time:

Example:

- I have to be at the dentist office ***at*** 10 o'clock. Oh, I don't want to go!

At is often used in talking about location:

Examples:

- He sat ***at*** his desk and sent emails to his girl friends.

- There was someone ***at*** the door with a big package. I was so surprised.

- We have to be ***at*** the show at 9 p.m., otherwise they will not allow us to enter the theater.

At is used to express a level or rate:

Examples:

- The food store is selling tomatoes ***at*** $1.00 per pound. Boy, that's cheap!

- She is a good student. She is ***at*** the top of her class.

At is sometimes used to express rate of speed:

Example:

- The policeman stopped him and told Martin that he was driving too fast. Martin was traveling ***at*** 75 miles per hour when the policeman saw him.

There are many uses for the word ***at*** *after certain English verbs, in English phrasal verbs, and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to the phrasal verbs and idioms and expressions books for more information.*

Before

(the opposite of ***before*** is

Before is sometimes used in expressions of time, as in: earlier than a certain time:

Examples:

- The new student arrived in class ***before*** 9

- The bus usually arrives ***before*** 4 p.m..

- Oh no, we have to be at school ***before*** 8 a.m. tomorrow morning because we have to prepare a presentation for the class. Oh, I can't get up that early!

Before is sometimes used to express order:

Examples:

- The B train comes ***before*** the J train. If you miss the B train you will have to wait for 1 hour for the next B train.

- The letter A comes ***before*** the letter B in the English alphabet.

Before is sometimes used to express the position of someone or something in relationship to something else:

Examples:

- The student was asked to stand ***before*** the class and give her presentation.

- The politician stood ***before*** the crowd and gave a speech.

Behind

(the opposite of ***behind*** is

Behind is sometimes used to express on the other side of something or someone; or to the rear of something:

Examples:

- The mouse is ***behind*** the wall, and it sounds like he's playing a clarinet.

- She hid her face ***behind*** her scarf because she was laughing at the boy who seemed so interested in her.

Behind is sometimes used in expressions of time, meaning late or not on schedule:

Example:

- We were supposed to finish the project yesterday, but we are

Below

(the opposite of ***below*** is

Below is used to talk about rank, position or location in comparison to something or someone else:

Examples:

- We live in a valley ***below*** a big mountain. (location)

- The dish soap is in the cabinet ***below*** the sink. (location)

- The assistant director is ***below*** (lower in rank) the director. (rank)

Beneath

(similar in meaning to the preposition

Beneath means under something and sometimes hidden or concealed by something:

Examples:

- Your feet are ***beneath*** the desk. Do I need to tell you that?

- The rug is ***beneath*** your feet. Please take off your shoes because the rug is new.

Beneath can be used to mean that something or someone is less worthy than someone or something else:

Examples:

- I am well educated and have plenty of experience. That job is for people with no education or experience. That job is ***beneath*** me. I am better than that.

- How dare you accuse me of stealing! I come from a very good with high virtues. Stealing is ***beneath*** me.
(Meaning: I am too virtuous to commit a crime).

Beside

(similar in meaning to ***next***

Beside means very close by, next to:

Examples:

- My friend stood ***beside*** me while I applied for citizenship.

- Your bicycle is ***beside*** the house.

- The pencil is there, ***beside*** your book.

Beside can also be used to mean very upset, agitated or emotional:

Examples:

- The mother was ***beside*** herself when she heard that her daughter was in the hospital.

- The man who won the lottery was ***beside*** himself with joy.

Besides

Besides can mean *in addition to or apart* :

Examples:

- ***Besides*** being the best student in the school, she was also a good athlete.

meaning: ***in addition to*** being the best student; examples:

- You are not old enough to drink alcohol, and ***besides*** that, alcohol is not good for another reason why you shouldn't drink alcohol, **apart from** the fact that you are not old enough to drink alcohol, is because you could get drunk.

Between

Between is used to talk about location of something, usually in the middle of two other things or people:

Examples:

- The grocery store is located ***between*** the bank and the library.

- I found my homework. It was ***between*** the first and second page of my grammar book.

Between is sometimes used in expressions of time: from (beginning with) one time to (ending with) another time :

Examples:

- We eat lunch ***between*** 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. every day.

- School is closed ***between*** June and August

Between is sometimes used to express sharing:

Examples:

- We went on our vacation with about $500 ***between*** us.

(Meaning: together we had $500).

- The ice cream cone costs $1.75, but we only had $1.50 ***between*** us.

(Meaning: together we only had $1.50, 75 cents each, not enough for the ice cream cone)

There are other uses for the word ***between*** *in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to the sections of this book about phrasal verbs, and Idioms and Expressions.*

Beyond

Beyond is used to express that something's or someone's location is further ahead or on the other side of something / someone else :

Examples:

- Hello, I'm looking for the bank. Is it much further ahead?

No, only a kilometer ***beyond*** the gas station.

- Excuse me, where is the restroom?

The restroom is located just ***beyond*** the water fountain in that direction.

Beyond is sometimes used to express lack of understanding about something:

Examples:

- That math was so hard. It was ***beyond*** me.

(Meaning: the math example was beyond my understanding, or my ability to understand it).

- I heard that Keiko got a passing grade on the

How she ever passed that exam without studying is ***beyond*** me!

Beyond can also be used to express being ahead of something or someone:

Example:

- She is a very good English student; she is ***beyond*** me in grammar and writing.

(Meaning: she is better than me at English grammar and writing)

By

By can be used in expression of time with the meaning not later than:

Examples:

- Why are you so worried?
The teachers said that we have to have the homework done ***by*** Wednesday at 8am!

- Hurry, we have to be there ***by*** 5 p.m. or we will miss the show.

By can be used to talk about a way or method of doing something:

Examples:

- You can calculate the solution to that problem ***by*** adding 5 and 8 together.

- I have to go to school ***by*** bus tomorrow because my car broke down.

- I went to Fiji ***by*** boat. Boy, that was a long trip!

By can be used to can be used to mean near or next to:

Examples:

- My dog was sitting ***by*** my side.

- He parked his car ***by*** my car.
(Meaning: he parked his car next to my car.)

By can be used to express who or what caused something (usually used in passive sentences):

Examples:

- This house was built ***by*** a carpenter.

- The building was destroyed ***by*** the typhoon.

- The fingerprint marks on the wall were made ***by*** the child.

By can be used when talking about math; multiplication, division and expressing the measurements of rooms and geometric shapes:

Examples:

- The teacher told us that when we multiply 5 ***by*** 6 the answer is 30.

- All four pieces of candy cost $1.00. To calculate how much each piece of candy costs, divide $1.00 ***by*** 4. Each piece of candy costs 25

- The room measures 10 feet ***by*** 50 feet. That's a big room!

*There are other uses for the word **by** in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). In particular, refer to the phrasal verbs section of this book.*

Chapter Review

*Prepositions beginning with the letters **A** and **B***

*Instructions: read the sentences below. Decide whether the use of the preposition is correct or incorrect. If incorrect, which of these prepositions **best** fits the sentence: **ahead** The answers can be found in this chapter (above).*

1. Alfred is talking **about** the exam he took last night.
□correct □incorrect

2. The military planes are flying **beneath** our heads. □correct
□incorrect

3. The grocery store was directly **by** the street from the library.
□correct □incorrect

4. The policeman ran **among** the criminal. □correct
□incorrect

5. The new bicycle is **against** the wall in the garage. □correct
□incorrect

6. Lila was **ahead** of Alicia and Tommy in the registration line.
□correct □incorrect

7. There were many people **among** the road during the marathon. □correct □incorrect

8. Many people walk **around** the mall for exercise. □correct □incorrect

9. William works as a pizza maker for the pizza shop **on** the corner. □correct □incorrect

10. Mika sat **between** the table and read a book. □correct □incorrect

12. You are not late for work if you arrive **before** 9 □correct □incorrect

13. The vice president is **about** the president in rank. □correct □incorrect

14. The new floor tile is **beneath** my feet. □correct □□incorrect

15. Your bicycle is **above** the house. □correct □incorrect

16. You can find the bank **between** the pet store and the fire station. □correct □incorrect

17. The grocery store is located just **along** the water fountain. □correct □incorrect

Answers: (1) correct; (2) incorrect; should be (3) incorrect; should be (4) incorrect; should be (5) correct; (6) correct; (7) incorrect;

should be (8) correct; (9) correct (10) incorrect; should be (11) correct; (12) incorrect; should be ***above*** (13) correct; (14) incorrect; should be ***by*** *or* (15) correct; (16) incorrect; should be ***beside***

Chapter 2 - *English prepositions beginning with the letters* ***C*** - ***F***

This is a comprehensive listing of the most common English prepositions beginning with the letters ***C*** *through The prepositions are followed by a usage explanation. After each explanation there are examples to help reinforce the correct use of the preposition in common English sentences.*

Common English prepositions beginning with the letters C - F

Below we will discuss the commonly used prepositions beginning with the letters ***C*** *through*

Close to

Close to is used to express nearness or nearly (almost):

Examples:

- Where is the shopping mall? The shopping mall is ***close*** the park.

- I am very ***close to*** my family.

- I received ***close to*** 100 emails this morning (meaning, almost 100 emails)! I'm tired of

Despite

Despite (In Spite Of) is used with a similar meaning to even though or notwithstanding:

Examples:

- ***Despite*** the rain, we will still have a picnic.

- He did well on the exam ***despite*** the difficult questions.

- He can kick a soccer ball hard ***despite*** the fact that he has weak legs.

Down

Down is used with a similar meaning to along when talking about travel:

Examples:

- We walked ***down*** the road for about 2 miles and then stopped at the lake.

- My friend drove ***down*** the highway at about 100 miles per hour. I was really scared!

Down is used to talk about going from a higher place to a lower place:

Examples:

- The divers went ***down*** to the bottom of the lake.

- He was playing cards with his friends and he was loosing money. He threw the cards ***down*** on the table in anger.

*There are other uses for the word **down** in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to the Focus On English book on phrasal verbs, and the Focus On English book on idioms and expressions.*

During

During is used in expressions of time; meaning within a period of time or **at the same time as something else is happening:**

Examples:

- I wrote my friend an email ***during*** the morning break. (within a period of time)

- I got up ***during*** the show and bought my girlfriend some popcorn. (at the time as the show was occurring)

Far From

Far From is used to talk about distance with the meaning that something is located a long way apart from something else:

Examples:

- The airport was ***far from*** the city center.

- Everyone moved ***far*** away ***from*** the entrance so that other people could enter the room easily.

For

Use ***for*** in conversation to indicate a special purpose for something or someone:

Examples:

- He uses a motorcycle ***for*** transportation.

- She wears that outfit ***for*** the beach.

- Do you give a gift to your girlfriend when she gets a good grade on her No, I usually don't give gifts ***for*** that reason.

- My friend gave me a gift ***for*** Christmas.

- We wore costumes ***for*** Halloween.

Use ***for*** in conversation to talk about time (usually length of time or to indicate future time):

Examples:

- I have been in New York ***for*** 3 months. (length of

- I have been studying English ***for*** 2 years. (length of time)

- I am studying now ***for*** the test next week. (future time)

Use ***for*** to express who or what is the recipient:

Examples:

- The played the song ***for*** him.

- My wife has a gift ***for*** me.

- The engineer has some information ***for*** his boss.

- I bought gas ***for*** the car.

Use ***for*** to explain the reason or benefit of doing something:

Examples:

- The student apologized ***for*** getting a bad grade. (reason)

- The woman was paid ***for*** cleaning the house. (reason)

- The boy was scolded ***for*** stealing the apple. (reason)

- We go surfing ***for*** fun. (benefit)

- We speak English to everyone ***for*** practice. (benefit)

Use ***for*** to talk about financial transactions:

Examples:

- Apples are $5 ***for*** 3 pounds.

- After he repaired the woman's car, he handed her a bill $1,000!

- How much does he get paid?
He works ***for*** $10 an hour.

Use ***for*** to express an unusual talent or sense:

Examples:

- Marco can sing any song just by listening to it! He has an ear ***for*** music.

- That woman has an eye for good art. She buys and sells art ***for*** an art gallery.

Use ***for*** to express an unusual fact:

Examples:

- That woman has big feet ***for*** such a small person.

- Boy, it's really cold ***for*** July!

There are other uses for the word ***for*** *in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to the Focus On English sections about phrasal verbs and idioms and expressions for more information.*

From

(the opposite of ***from*** is

From can be used in expressions of time:

Examples:

- The advanced English course runs ***from*** April through April in this example, has the meaning of 'beginning on.')

- The celebration runs ***from*** 5 p.m. on. 5 p.m. until an unknown time in the future)

- We will see the exhibit one month ***from*** today. (Meaning: one month's time, beginning today)

From can be used to indicate where something came from, source:

Examples:

- I got a letter ***from*** my friend in China.

- Peaches come ***from*** Georgia.

- The brother and sister get money ***from*** their parents.

- He doesn't come ***from*** Europe. He comes ***from*** South Africa.

From can be used to indicate source + separation:

Examples:

- She borrowed money ***from*** her friend. (The friend was the source and money was separated ***from*** her and was lent to her friend).

- The scientists tried to protect the whales ***from*** harm.
(Separating the whales from harm)

From can be used to indicate distance (and separation) away:

Examples:

- My aunt lives 25 miles ***from*** here.

- New York City is 2,905 miles ***from*** San Francisco.

- The racing cars raced passed us and then disappeared ***from*** view very quickly.

From is used in discussing math, especially subtraction:

Examples:

- Two ***from*** four equals two.

- 100 ***from*** 1000 = 900

From can answer the question why; ***from*** can mean because of:

Examples:

- Why are they tired? They are tired ***from*** running all day.

- Why are they so overweight? They are overweight ***from*** eating too much.

From can be used to talk about what something is made of:

Examples:

- The sweater was made ***from*** wool.

- The shoes were made ***from*** leather.

- The apple tree was grown ***from*** a seed.

From can be used to talk position in relation to something or someone else (usually referring to viewing or listening):

Examples:

- We can see the fireworks ***from*** our window.

- I could hear the speech ***from*** the back of the room.

There are other uses for the word ***from*** *in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please see the book on phrasal verbs.*

Chapter 2 Review

*Prepositions beginning with the letters **C** through **F***

*Instructions: read carefully the sentences below. Decide whether the use of the preposition is correct or incorrect. If incorrect, which of these prepositions **best** fits the sentence: **close far** The answers can be found below.*

1. Go **down** the road for about 3 miles, and then turn left at the red light. □correct □incorrect

2. A student raised his hand **close to** the class and asked a question. □correct □incorrect

3. The library is **far from** the school building. □correct □incorrect

4. The workers use the machine **except** digging the earth. □correct □incorrect

5. Jean received an email **close to** her friend in Spain. □correct □incorrect

6. The members of the soccer team are tired **from** the workout. □correct □incorrect

7. **Despite** the bad weather, our team won the match. □correct □incorrect

8. I went for a swim **during** the afternoon. □correct □incorrect

9. Alex borrowed money **down** Tricia. □correct □incorrect

10. The company sells products **for** a profit. □correct □incorrect

Answers: (1) correct; (2) incorrect; should be during; (3) correct; (4) incorrect; should be for; (5) incorrect; should be from; (6) correct; (7) correct; (8) correct; (9) incorrect; should be from; (10) correct

Chapter 3 - *English prepositions beginning with the letters **I** - **N***

*This is a comprehensive listing of the most common English prepositions beginning with the letters **I** - The prepositions are followed by a usage explanation. After each explanation there are examples to help reinforce the correct use of the preposition in common English sentences.*

Common English prepositions beginning with the letters I - N

Below we will discuss these commonly used prepositions and provide you with many examples.

In

In is used to talk about a person's or thing's location inside of something:

Examples:

- She was sitting ***in*** the room.

- He was watching television ***in*** his house.

- The pen was ***in*** the drawer.

In is used to talk about a location direction:

Examples:

- The sun sets ***in*** the west.

- Beautiful woven rugs are made ***in*** the east.

In is used to talk about being inside of a location boundary, city, country, state, etc:

Examples:

- Right now, we are ***in*** New York City.

- My friend lives ***in*** San Francisco.

- Tokyo is ***in*** Japan.

- We are ***in*** the park.

What is the difference between ***at*** the park and ***in*** the park? We say that we are ***in*** the park when we are within the boundaries of the park. We often say we are ***at*** the park when we have arrived near to the park boundary. Sometimes, English speakers use ***in*** and ***at*** interchangeably when referring to locations like airport, library, school, park, etc. Where are you now? I'm ***at*** the park; or, I'm ***in*** the park. Generally, ***at*** refers to being located close to

or on the border of a location, whereas ***in*** refers to being inside the boundaries of the location.

In is used to talk about time:

Examples:

- He was born in Okinawa, ***in*** 1983.

- I'm late! I have to be at school ***in*** 10 minutes!

- My wife should be home ***in*** 2 hours.

- We usually start school ***in*** September.

- My mother will be arriving ***in*** two weeks.

- They take their shower ***in*** the morning.

- We watch the sun set ***in*** the evening.

- I think we were happier ***in*** the 1970s. (or: ***in*** the 70s)

Use ***in*** when talking about weather:

Examples:

- We like to walk ***in*** the rain.

- It's hot ***in*** the sun.

Use ***in*** when talking about what someone is wearing:

Examples:

- She went to dinner ***in*** a beautiful black dress.

- They went to the Halloween party ***in*** a funny costume.

Use ***in*** when talking about a location on the body:

Examples:

- He was hit ***in*** the chest.

- She put her contact lens ***in*** her eye.

- The soccer player has a pain ***in*** his foot.

Use ***in*** when talking how people relate to each other:

Examples:

- They were ***in*** an argument last night.

- All of the members of the group worked ***in*** cooperation with each other to solve the problem.

- The mother asked the little boy why his shirt was torn.
The little boy told his mother that he was ***in*** a fight.

Use ***in*** when talking about the current status of something or someone:

Examples:

- The old book is still very popular. It is still ***in*** print.

- That recipe is very famous and is ***in*** demand. (Meaning: many people would like to have it)

Use ***in*** when you want to be clear about measurement:

Examples:

- He is very heavy. I don't know what he weighs ***in*** kilos, but ***in*** pounds he weighs more than 300.

- The car is very tall ***in*** height.

*There are many other uses for the word **in** in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or To learn more, refer to the the books on phrasal verbs and idioms and expressions.*

In Back of

In Back of means to the rear of or behind:

Examples:

- They keep the garbage cans ***in back of*** the building.

- The garage is ***in back of*** the house.

In Front of

In Front of refers to something or someone that is located before or facing something or someone:

Examples:

- The woman stood ***in front of*** the mirror combing her hair.

- The car was parked ***in front of*** the school building.

Inside

Inside refers to something or someone that is located within something else:

Examples:

- The pencils are ***inside*** that red box.

- The two girls are ***inside*** that house.

Instead of

Instead of *means to substitute something for something else:*

Examples:

- We went swimming ***instead of*** surfing.

- Kazu studied English ***instead of*** Italian.

Into

Into is used to mean enter:

Examples:

- The businessman stepped ***into*** the cab.

- The English student went ***into*** the classroom.

- The flower shop girl put the flowers ***into*** a bag.

Into is sometimes used to mean something of interest or an occupation or preoccupation:

Examples:

- The students are really ***into*** learning English. (The students really enjoy learning

- He loves soccer; he is really ***into*** soccer!

Into is sometimes used to talk about math division:

Examples:

- 12 ***into*** 48 equals 4.

- Ten ***into*** one hundred equals ten.

Into is used to talk about a condition change:

Examples:

- The student got ***into*** trouble for cheating on the exam.

- Kyoko got ***into*** debt after buying the expensive home.

Into is used to talk about sudden, hard contact, or forced contact with something or someone:

Examples:

- The motorcycle crashed ***into*** the building but the driver was not seriously hurt.

- The girl ran ***into*** the tree and had to be taken to the hospital.

*There are many other uses for the word **into** in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to the books on phrasal verbs and English expressions and idioms.*

Like

Like is used to talk about similarities:

Examples:

- There is no other person ***like*** him.

- Places ***like*** New York and Los Angeles can be interesting vacation stops.

- He is ***like*** his brother. They both enjoy playing sports.

Like is used to talk about examples:

Examples:

- There are many forms of transportation, ***like*** cars, trains and planes.

- There are many things you can do to improve your English, ***like*** talking to native speakers, studying grammar, and attending classes regularly.

Near

Near is used to talk about distance from or location; something that is close by:

Examples:

- Oh, look at the tall buildings, we must be ***near*** Dallas.

- The whiteboard is ***near*** the door.

Next to

Next to is used to talk about something or someone that is near, close to, or in very close proximity to

Examples:

- She parked her car ***next to*** mine in the mall parking lot.

- Could you tell me where the grocery store is?
Yes, it is ***next to*** the bank on Smith Street.

Chapter 3 Review

*Prepositions beginning with the letters **I** - **N***

*Instructions: read the sentences below. Decide whether the use of the underlined preposition is correct or incorrect. If incorrect, which of these prepositions **best** fits the sentence: **in back in front instead** The answers can be found at the end of the practice.*

1. I waited in near of the taxi stand for two hours, but no taxi
□correct □incorrect

2. The car is inside the garage. □correct □incorrect

3. The businessman went into the building. □correct
□incorrect

4. Places like Honolulu and Cancun can be nice for vacations.
□correct □incorrect

5. Long Island is a place instead of New York City. □correct
□incorrect

6. The bus stopped next to the shopping center. □correct
□incorrect

7. One hundred near one thousand equals ten. □correct □incorrect

8. We went swimming instead of surfing. □correct □incorrect

9. Jim and Nancy got into debt when they bought the expensive sports car. □correct □incorrect

10. The garbage bins are in back of the store . □correct □incorrect

Answers: (1) incorrect; should be ***in front*** (2) correct; (3) correct; (4) correct; (5) incorrect; should be ***near;*** (6) correct; (7) incorrect; should be (8) correct; (9) correct; (10) correct

Chapter 4 - *English prepositions beginning with the letter* ***O***

This is a comprehensive listing of the most common English prepositions beginning with the letter The prepositions are followed by a usage explanation. After each explanation there are examples to help reinforce the correct use of the preposition in common English sentences.

Common English prepositions beginning with the letter O

Below we will discuss these commonly used prepositions and provide you with many examples.

Of

Of is used to talk about belonging to or being connected to a group, something, someone or time:

Examples:

- Who is that tall man there?
He is the dean ***of*** this college.

- That monk is ***of*** the Buddhist religion.

- That man is a citizen ***of*** the USA.

- Who is she?
She is a doctor ***of*** medicine.

- The author is writing a book on the trees and plants ***of*** Australia.

- We watched fireworks on the fourth ***of*** July.

- April Fools day is on the first day ***of*** April.

- I finished my English studies in March ***of*** last year.

Of is used to help talk about categories or types of things or people:

Examples:

- He was very embarrassed; the color ***of*** his face was red.

- The cost ***of*** the home was very high.

- Before you can order shoes, you have to know the size ***of*** your foot.

- I don't like the smell ***of*** that fish. I think it is bad.

- My mother bought two bags ***of*** rice yesterday.

Of is used to help talk about quantity:

Examples:

- Are we going to be late?
No, we have plenty ***of*** time.

- Many ***of*** the people who listen to EnglishMP3 audio books learn English well.

- We have hundreds ***of*** products in our store.

- Don't worry about breaking the dish; we have plenty ***of*** dishes.

There are many other uses for the word ***of*** *in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to the phrasal verbs and idioms and expressions sections of this book.*

Off

Off is used to talk about a condition or state of being; that something is not on or has stopped functioning:

Examples:

- The stove is cool. It must be

- Would you please turn ***off*** all the lights? Electricity is expensive.

- Well, that show was terrible. I think I will turn ***off*** the TV now.

- Did we turn the stove ***off*** before we left home?
Yes! Do you remember? I turned it ***off*** 10 minutes before we left the house.

Off is used to talk about movement that represents change in location:

Examples:

- The papers blew ***off*** the table.

- The motorcycle ran ***off*** the road but the driver was not hurt.

Off can be used to mean to remove or separate:

Examples:

- Mary, did you take your books ***off*** the counter? Yes mom, my books are ***off*** the counter.

- My father shaved ***off*** his beard. Boy, his appearance really changed!

Off **can be used to mean to stop doing something:**

Examples:

- Do you want to go to the club with me?
I can't because I'm ***off*** alcohol.
(Meaning: I don't want to drink alcohol any more.)

- What time do you get ***off*** work?
(Meaning: What time do you stop work.)
I get ***off*** at 4 p.m..

Off is used to mean not far from:

Examples:

- The bank is just ***off*** Elm Street.
(Meaning: A little bit further past or in the vicinity of Elm Street.)

- Oh, that was a terrible golf shot. You're a little ***off*** today. (Meaning: You are not playing like you usually do; your golf is not as good as usual.)

Off is sometimes used in commands and warning signs to mean do not have contact with:

Examples:

- Please keep ***off*** the grass!

- Wet concrete, keep

*There are many other uses for the word **off** in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to the sections in this book about phrasal verbs and about idioms and expressions .*

On

On can mean contact with a surface or surface location:

Examples:

- The books are ***on*** the desk.

- The picture is ***on*** the wall.

- The fly is ***on*** the window.

- The writing is on the wall.

- The woman is driving her car ***on*** the street.

- The boy is riding his skateboard ***on*** the sidewalk.

On can mean in contact but above something else:

Examples:

- Please print your name ***on*** the line.

On can mean a location, usually outdoors:

Examples:

- The parking garage is ***on*** the side of the building.

- Where are you?
We're ***on*** the corner of Elm and Second Avenue.

- We went ***on*** the roof to get the cat.

- We all live ***on*** the planet called Earth.

On is used to talk about time:

Examples:

- I have to go to the doctor's office ***on*** Wednesday.

- My family is coming to visit ***on*** Christmas day.

- We will arrive ***on*** Monday.

On is used when talking about transportation and traveling:

Examples:

- They got ***on*** the bus.

- She was ***on*** the train for two hours.

- The family spent four hours ***on*** the plane.

(Note: use ***in*** when talking about a taxi or car. The businessman was ***in*** the taxi for an hour because of heavy traffic.)

On is used to talk about membership or being part of *something:*

Examples:

- My name is ***on*** the good student list.

- He is ***on*** the soccer team.

On is used to talk about means or resource:

Examples:

- The space shuttle rocket runs ***on*** special fuel.

- My wife and I live ***on*** my paycheck.

- The three mountain climbers survived ***on*** little water.

On can sometimes indicate the cause of a mishap or problem:

Examples:

- The boy hurt himself ***on*** his skateboard.

- She got sick ***on*** the bad food she ate at the restaurant.

On can sometimes indicate a reason for doing something:

Examples:

- They went to Fiji ***on*** vacation.

- Michael went to New York ***on*** business.

On is sometimes used to indicate subject or topic; meaning about:

Examples:

- I read an article ***on*** how to learn English quickly.

- Their class presentation was ***on*** the environment.

On can be used to indicate possession:

Examples:

- Can I borrow $5?
Sorry, I don't have any money ***on*** me.

- Excuse me. Do you have a pen ***on*** you? I need to write down a phone number.

On is used to indicate a special occasion:

Examples:

- Congratulations ***on*** getting married.

- They celebrated by going out dancing ***on*** their anniversary.

On can indicate status, condition, or state:

Examples:

- Your new shoes are ***on*** order and should arrive next week.

- The woman is ***on*** a diet. She is trying to lose 30 pounds.

On can be used to indicate a continuation of what was being done:

Examples:

- After stopping at the motel, we drove ***on*** to our next destination.

- We stopped to look at the accident, but the police told us to move

On is used to talk about how something was communicated:

Examples:

- I learned about the new job opportunity ***on*** the Internet.

- I saw the advertisement ***on*** TV.

- Stefan and his brother heard the news ***on*** the radio.

On is used to talk about behavior towards something or someone:

Examples:

- The long days without food or water were hard ***on*** the survivors. It was the biggest challenge of their lives.

- The test was too easy ***on*** the students. Everyone got a very high mark!

On can help to express adding to something or acquiring something:

Examples:

- Jim wants to add ***on*** a bedroom to his house.

- The school added ***on*** five new teachers.

On can be used to express two things happening at the same time (in this usage, on and upon can be used simultaneously):

Examples:

- ***On*** second thought, he decided not to buy the car.

- He called the fire department ***on*** seeing the fire in the house.

On can be used to help express feelings or attitude towards something or someone:

Examples:

- The girl in the second row has a crush ***on*** the boy in the front of the class. (Meaning: she has a romantic interest in him.)

- The man took pity ***on*** the homeless man and gave him some money.

*There are many other uses for the word **on** in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to the sections in this book about phrasal verbs and expressions and idioms.*

Onto

Onto *is used to talk about moving from one place to another place:*

Examples:

- The spider jumped ***onto*** the table.

- It was raining so they moved all of the picnic food ***onto*** a table that was under an umbrella.

Opposite

Opposite is used to mean across from:

Examples:

- Excuse me. Could you tell me where the bank is located? Yes. The bank is up that street ***opposite*** the grocery store.

- She sat ***opposite*** her boyfriend at the fancy restaurant.

Out

Out is used when talking about passing something around or distributing something:

Examples:

- Sally, would you please pass ***out*** these forms to the class.

- We mailed ***out*** about 1,000 brochures to advertise our new business.

Out is used when talking about removing something or someone:

Examples:

- I brought the gift ***out*** to the car. I'm bringing it to my sister's birthday party.

- She opened the box and took ***out*** the new dress.

Out *is often used with the preposition* ***of*** *in expressing different ideas in English. Below are some usage explanations and for* ***out***

Out of can be used to express absence:

Examples:

- Three ***out*** of five people today do not exercise regularly.

- Two ***out*** of every three of these apples are bad. We should take this bag of apples back to the market.

Out of can be used to express a percentage or fraction of something:

Examples:

- Hello Marta. I haven't seen your sister in a week. Where is she?
Oh, she is ***out of*** the country. She will be back next week.

- Mr. Yoshida is ***out of*** the office at the moment, may I take a message for him?

- Hello? (answering the No, Gerhard is not here right now. He is ***out of*** town.

Out of can be used to express not being normal or not what is usually expected:

Examples:

- Oh my gosh, that coat is so ***out of*** style!

- What happened?
That car went ***out of*** control and hit the telephone pole!

Out of can be used to express what something was made of or what ingredients went into making something:

Examples:

- That company makes surfboards ***out of*** bamboo.

- Cotton candy is made ***out of*** pure sugar.

Out of can be used to express a lack of or no longer available or in supply:

Examples:

- I drove to the gas station to get some fuel for my car, but the gas station was ***out of*** fuel.

- I would like to have a vanilla ice cream cone, please.

Sorry. We are all ***out of*** vanilla.

(Note: the word ***all*** used with ***out of*** means

Out of can mean away from, similar to distance from:

Examples:

- Excuse me. Could you tell me where the nearest gas station is?
Yes. It's on this road about four miles ***out of*** town.

- If you want to buy alcohol, you will have to go ***out of*** state because it is illegal in this state to sell alcohol.

Out of can be used to express a reason for doing something:

Examples:

- I went to Bali ***out of*** curiosity. I've always wanted to see what that island was like.

- I adopted the stray cat ***out of*** pity.

*There are many other uses for the word **out** in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to phrasal verbs idioms and expressions.*

Outside

Outside is often used with the preposition Outside means not within the confines of something:

Examples:

- We could hear strange noises ***outside*** the house.

- The man put his wet boots ***outside*** the door.

Over

Over means above something or someone; it usually indicates being higher than:

Examples:

- We flew ***over*** New York on our way to Boston.

- The branch of the tree hung ***over*** the house.

- The price of that car is expensive. It's way ***over*** my head because I don't earn that much money.

- I don't understand Einstein. His theories are way ***over*** my head. (Meaning: I can't understand his theories because they are too complicated for me.)

Over is used to mean to cover something or someone:

Examples:

- The workers put a steel plate ***over*** the hole in the road.

- It was cold in the room so she put a sweater on ***over*** her blouse.

Over is used to express above and then to the other side of something or someone:

Examples:

- The runner jumped ***over*** the branch that was in the road.

- The football player kicked the ball ***over*** the wall.

- We had to climb ***over*** the fence to get into the park.

- Is it possible to jump ***over*** a rainbow?

- You should drive your car slowly ***over*** a speed bump.

Over is used to express control over something or someone:

Examples:

- The emperor rules ***over*** the people in his country.

- The general manager of the company is ***over*** all employees.

Over is used to express location away from and on the other side of something or someone else:

Examples:

- The market is ***over*** there.

- I work in a building that is just ***over*** the bridge.
(Note: the word ***just*** is used to mean ***a small distance***

Over can be used to indicate topic or subject:

Examples:

- We fought ***over*** who should pay the check at the restaurant.

- They leader of the country worried ***over*** the shortage of food.

Over (adverb) can mean finished:

Examples:

- The show is

- School is

*There are many other uses for the word **over** in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to the phrasal verbs and English idioms and expressions sections in this book.*

Chapter 4 Review

Prepositions beginning with the letter ***O***

Instructions: read the sentences below. Decide whether the use of the preposition is correct or incorrect. If incorrect, which of these prepositions ***best*** *fits the sentence:* ***on top*** *The answers can be found at the bottom.*

1. The priest is of the Catholic faith. □correct □incorrect

2. The final semester ends in June on top of this year. □correct □incorrect

3. My friend shaved the hair off his head. □correct □incorrect

4. The butter is on the table. □correct □incorrect

5. She was out the train for two hours. □correct □incorrect

6. The dancer jumped onto the stage. □correct □incorrect

7. The two buildings are opposite each other. □correct □incorrect

8. The student turned <u>of</u> the lights in the classroom. □correct □incorrect

9. Jonathan is <u>out of</u> the country. □correct □incorrect

10. The two girls fought <u>over</u> the good-looking boy.

Answers: (1) correct; (2) incorrect; should be (3) correct; (4) correct; (5) incorrect; should be ***<u>on;</u>*** (6) correct; (7) correct; (8) incorrect; should be (9) correct; (10) correct

Chapter 5 - *English prepositions beginning with the letters **P** - **T***

*This is a comprehensive listing of the most common English prepositions beginning with the letters **P** - The prepositions are followed by a usage explanation. After each explanation there are examples to help reinforce the correct use of the preposition in common English sentences.*

Common English prepositions beginning with the letters P - T

Below we will discuss these commonly used prepositions and provide you with many examples.

Past

Past is used to mean beyond:

Examples:

- Excuse me. How do I get to the theater.
Just go up this street ***past*** the stop light and the theater is on your left.

- The director's office is just ***past*** classroom number 3 on the right side of the hall.

Past can mean to go by something or someone:

Examples:

- The girl walks ***past*** the pastry shop on her way to school every day.

- We drove ***past*** Lincoln Center in New York City.

Since

Since means continuously or intermittently from a time in the past until the present:

Examples:

- I haven't been in Tokyo ***since*** last September.

- The school has been open ***since*** 1995.

- He hasn't said hello ***since*** we had that argument.

Through

Through can be used to express passage, or movement, across or under a potential barrier or obstacle:

Examples:

- The five limousines passed ***through*** the open gate.

- I got a ticket for going ***through*** a red light.

- As we walked ***through*** the door, our whole family was there to greet us.

- We drove ***through*** the tunnel without our lights on. Boy, it was dark in there.

Through can be used to mean contiguous or sequential

(Meaning: one thing occurring in exact order after the other) with a beginning and an ending:

Examples:

- The students were asked to read pages 24 ***through*** 31 for their homework.

- My dad works Monday ***through*** Friday at the factory.

- The sale will continue on ***through*** Tuesday of next week.

Through can be used to express passage or movement within a confining space or borders:

Examples:

- We passed ***through*** the long, dark hallway as we walked to the waiting room.

- We walked ***through*** the park on our way home.

Through can relate to vision; being able to see something beyond the initial surface:

Examples:

- We looked ***through*** the window and saw the city below.

- My car needs new paint. I can see the metal showing ***through*** the paint in some spots.

Through is used to express completing something that may require hard work to finish:

Examples:

- I want to travel a lot, but first I have to get ***through*** school.

- That was a bad storm. I didn't think we were going to get ***through*** it.

- She went ***through*** a bad experience, but now she feels better.

Through is used with the word all to have the same meaning as throughout (Meaning: in all parts, or during an entire event):

Examples:

- My girlfriend and I walked all ***through*** the park looking at the gardens and enjoying the sunshine.

- That cat was crying all ***through*** the night. I hardly got any sleep!

Through is used to express the reason for something:

Examples:

- The student achieved high grades ***through*** hard work and study.

- The woman was overcharged for her purchase ***through*** a computer error.

Through is used to express the means by which something happens:

Examples:

- We got the information ***through*** his website.

- I got the job ***through*** an employment agency.

Throughout

Throughout is used to express that something is occurring everywhere, in all parts of:

Examples:

- There are yoga centers ***throughout*** New York City.

- There are fire alarm boxes ***throughout*** the building.

Throughout is used to talk about something occurring during an entire period of time:

Examples:

- He has been a very successful person ***throughout*** his life.

- We ask that students remain silent ***throughout*** the exam.

- We partied ***throughout*** the whole Christmas holiday.

To

To is used to indicate a response or reaction to something or someone:

Examples:

- I hope you will agree ***to*** my offer.

- The teacher hoped that the students paid attention ***to*** the lesson.

- Her reaction ***to*** that comment was negative.

- The old man was grateful ***to*** receive the help.

To is used to indicate a destination:

Examples:

- The plane ***to*** L.A. will arrive at 5 a.m..

- She wants sail ***to*** the South Pacific.

- The letter was ***to*** her.

- The sisters go ***to*** school every day, five days a week.

To is used to talk about time:

Examples:

- We work from 9 a.m. ***to*** 5 p.m. every day.

- They worked on the project from morning ***to*** night.

*Here is another way **to** is used to talk about time:*

- The time is now 15 minutes ***to*** 6. (a quarter to six)

- It's 20 minutes ***to*** noon.

To is used to help express who or what receives something; meaning, beneficiary of something:

Examples:

- His company awarded the prize ***to*** him for his hard work.

- The city dedicated the monument ***to*** the memory of its famous writer.

- The school gave a scholarship ***to*** the student because of her good work.

To is used to help express transferring and exchanging something from a person or a place:

Examples:

- The secretary brings the mail ***to*** the office every day.

- The student read his presentation ***to*** the class.

- The hair dresser recommended the hair conditioner ***to*** the woman.

- Would you please give that ***to*** me," said Oliver Hardy to Stan Laurel. "Thank you."

To is used to help express what effect someone or something has on someone or something else:

Examples:

- Please stop having loud parties every night! You are a nuisance ***to*** the neighborhood. (And, besides, you never invite me.)

- The new park has been a pleasing experience ***to*** everyone.

- To my embarrassment, I sent the email ***to*** the wrong person.

To can be used to refer to one's self in a sentence:

Examples:

- ***To*** her disappointment, she didn't get a good grade on the final exam.

- The work was completed ***to*** their satisfaction.

To is used to help express repetition:

Examples:

- Our boat trip across the bay was really uncomfortable. The boat rolled side ***to*** side.

- The homeless man went from house ***to*** house asking for food.

To is used to help express attaching something to something, or attachment:

Examples:

- She stapled the picture ***to*** the form.

- The carpenter nailed the wood ***to*** the floor.

To is used to help express comparison:

Examples:

- The sun is very bright here, compared ***to*** where I live.

- Your essay is very similar ***to*** mine.

To is used to indicate action caused by sound:

Examples:

- The next morning they woke up ***to*** the sound of the ocean.

- She tapped her fingers ***to*** the sound of the music.

To is used to help express relationship of one thing to another:

Examples:

- I'd like to introduce you to the new assistant ***to*** the director.

- These are the keys ***to*** my car. Please don't crash it.

- The school building is close ***to*** the mall.

- This street runs parallel ***to*** that one.

- There are 3.8 liters ***to*** one gallon.

To is used to help express extremes:

Examples:

- She was so mad that she tore the contract ***to*** bits.

- I'm trying to study and the noise from the party next door is driving me ***to*** madness.

To is used to help indicate problems or solutions:

Examples:

- Our water reservoirs are almost dry. This is a threat ***to*** our survival.

- What is your solution ***to*** this problem?

To is used to help express ownership or connectedness:

Examples:

- That house belongs ***to*** me.

- This issue is important ***to*** me.

- He is married ***to*** that woman.

To is used to help express restrictedness:

Examples:

- The teenager was confined ***to*** her room for disobeying her mother.

- The prisoners were restricted ***to*** two meals a day.

Please refer to Focus On English, Mastering English Gerunds and *for more uses of the word There are also many other uses for the word* ***to*** *in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to the phrasal verbs and idioms and expressions.*

Toward(s)

Toward(s) is used to help express the direction to a location or place:

- The tourists headed ***toward*** the beach.

- We sailed our boat ***toward*** the island.

- How do I find the iPod store?

To find the iPod store, walk ***towards*** the bank for about 5 minutes, and then look to your left. It's the third store past the bank.

- The plane took off and headed ***toward*** Paris, France.

- See, over there. Look ***towards*** the intersection. You can see a man playing music on the street corner and dancing in his bare feet.

Toward(s) is used to help express contribution or making a partial payment:

Examples:

- The couple made a contribution of $1,000 ***towards*** the sick man's medical bills.

- The boy pays $50 every month ***towards*** his car payment.

Toward(s) is used to help express nearness to a certain time:

Examples:

- We always get excited about going skiing ***towards*** the middle of the winter.

- The math student was getting nervous ***towards*** the end of the exam because time was running out.

Toward(s) is used to help express attitude:

Examples:

- The parents are very loving ***towards*** their children.

- The students were very respectful ***towards*** their teacher.

Toward(s) is used to help express movement in the direction of some kind of action:

Examples:

- They are working ***towards*** an agreement.

- Peter is heading ***towards*** a decision to leave the company.

Chapter 5 Review

*Prepositions beginning with the letters **P** – **T***

*Instructions: read the sentences below. Decide whether the use of the preposition is correct or incorrect. If incorrect, which of these prepositions **best** fits the sentence: The answers can be found at the bottom of the page.*

1. I haven't been in Tokyo ***since*** 1999. □correct □incorrect

2. The students passed ***through*** the museum and looked at the works of art. □correct □incorrect

3. There were many questions ***throughout*** the company meeting. □correct □incorrect

4. The student was grateful ***to*** receive tutoring from the teacher. □correct □incorrect

5. As soon as we got to Hawaii we headed ***since*** the beach. □correct □incorrect

6. Barbara is married ***past*** Alex Smith. □correct □incorrect

7. Our group sang songs ***throughout*** the train journey. □correct □incorrect

8. Every time I walk ***past*** the pastry shop I get hungry. □correct □incorrect

9. We attend school Monday ***through*** Friday every week. □correct □incorrect

10. The leader of the country has been kind ***to*** everyone.

Answers: (1) correct; (2) correct; (3) correct; (4) correct; (5) incorrect; should be ***to;*** (6) incorrect; should be (7) correct; (8) correct; (9) correct; (10) correct

Chapter 6 - *English prepositions beginning with the letters* ***U*** *-* ***Z***

This is a comprehensive listing of the most common English prepositions beginning with the letters ***U*** *- The prepositions are followed by a usage explanation. After each explanation there are examples to help reinforce the correct use of the preposition in common English sentences.*

Common English prepositions beginning with the letters U - Z

Below we will discuss these commonly used prepositions and provide you with many examples.

Under

Under is used to mean being in a lower position than, or beneath something or someone else:

Examples:

- The pen is ***under*** the table.

- The man is walking ***under*** the bridge.

- The submarine can travel ***under*** water.

Under is used to help express being under the supervision of or control of something or someone:

Examples:

- She has been very sick. Currently, she is ***under*** the supervision of a doctor.

- We are working ***under*** a manager that does not give us very much freedom.

- That country continues to suffer ***under*** bad leadership.

Under is used to express less than:

Examples:

- You can buy that car for ***under*** $20,000.

- Sorry, we can't sell you beer because you are ***under*** age 21.

Under can mean the same as **underneath** meaning hidden or covered by something else:

Examples:

- The cats hid ***under*** the house. We couldn't find them for days.

- She hid her purse ***under*** the bed.

- Sand crabs are found ***underneath*** the sand at the beach.

- He found his driver's license ***underneath*** a pile of papers on his desk.

Under can be used to express a situation, condition or state:

Examples:

- The website is ***under*** construction and should be done next month.

- The man was sent to jail for causing trouble while ***under*** the influence of alcohol.

Under can be used to identify categories:

Examples:

- You can find her name in the directory ***under*** the letter P.

- Porpoises can be found in the encyclopedia ***under*** mammals.

Underneath

Underneath is used to help express when something is being hidden or covered by something else:

Examples:

- ***Underneath*** her jacket she wore a sweater.

- I was very warm and cozy ***underneath*** the blankets of my bed.

Until

Until helps to express the beginning or end of an action, activity, situation or time:

Examples:

- I'm sorry sir, but the bank is closed. You will not be able to withdraw money ***until*** tomorrow.

- (Students taking an Please do not leave your seats ***until*** the teacher gives you permission.

Up

Up can mean movement to a higher place:

Examples:

- The price of gasoline has really gone

- The champagne cork flew ***up*** into the air when it was removed.

Up can be used to express movement against a current of water:

Examples:

- Salmon always swim ***up***

Meaning: against the current of a river or stream

- We rowed the canoe ***up*** the river.

Up can be used to express forward movement towards a location further away:

Examples:

- The new park is ***up*** the road about ten miles and on your right.

- The bikers rode ***up*** the bike trail another five miles before they stopped and rested.

Up can be used to express forward movement along a route or path:

Examples:

- The truck traveled ***up*** the road.

- The two friends jogged ***up*** the path.

Up can be used to express division or cutting of something into pieces:

Examples:

- My mother chopped up the onion and then chopped ***up*** some garlic and put all the pieces in the sauce.

- The bank robbers divided ***up*** the money and then ran away.

*There are also many other uses for the word **up** in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to the books about phrasal verbs and idioms and expression.*

Upon

Upon can be used in many of the same situations where on can be used:

Examples:

- ***Upon*** entering the room, everyone yelled, “surprise!”

- The stone was resting ***upon*** two supports

With

With can be used to express things being added on:

Examples:

- I like my tea ***with*** milk.

- How much is a hamburger ***with*** French fries.

With is used to express being together or in the company of:

Examples:

- I went ***with*** my brother to see the show.

- The students went ***with*** their teacher to the student auditorium.

- Did you see a man ***with*** a small boy within the last hour?

- Sally came to the party ***with*** her friend.

- Did you go ***with*** her?

With is used to express a type of behavior:

Examples:

- They accepted the new jobs ***with*** gratitude.

- Children have to be handled ***with*** care.

- The teacher congratulated the class ***with*** pride.

- The girl was being honest ***with*** her friend.

With **is used to help** feelings:

Examples:

- The office worker was bored ***with*** her job.

- The newlywed couple were filled ***with*** joy to be moving into a new home.

With is used to help express affiliation or relationship:

Examples:

- He has been working ***with*** the International Red Cross for two years.

- Melissa works ***with*** blind children.

With is used to help express conflict or struggle:

Examples:

- The children are always arguing ***with*** each other.

- Our football team is going to compete ***with*** the champion team next week.

- He had trouble ***with*** the car. The motor wouldn't start.

With is used to help express filling or covering something or an area:

Examples:

- The waitress filled the class ***with*** water.

- The whole side of the mountain was covered ***with*** wild flowers.

With helps to express which tool or implement is used to accomplish an action:

Examples:

- The artist painted a picture of the flower ***with*** his paintbrush.

- The worker dug a hole in the ground ***with*** a shovel.

With helps to express simultaneous (occurring together at the same time) time and direction:

Examples:

- The teacher always starts the class ***with*** a quiz.

- The monks always start their day ***with*** prayer.

- The boat sailed ***with*** the current.

With helps to express parting or separation:

Examples:

- Toshiko is finished ***with*** her company and is now looking for a new job.

- She broke up ***with*** her boyfriend because they didn't spend enough time together.

With helps to express cooperation:

Examples:

- All of the neighbors helped ***with*** cleaning the park.

- We decided to work ***with*** them on this important project.

- The car company has decided to form a partnership ***with*** their main parts manufacturer.

- We no longer do business ***with*** them.

With helps to express comparisons:

Examples:

- Stefan's shirt didn't go ***with*** his pants. (Meaning: the colors of his shirt didn't look good ***with*** the color of his pants.)

- The value of the U.S. dollar is comparable ***with*** the value of the Canadian dollar.
(Meaning: they are approximately equal in value.)

- Two different stores have the computer we want. We should compare one price ***with*** the other before we buy the computer.\

With helps to express reason or cause:

Examples:

- The graduates were smiling ***with*** joy.

- The man was trembling ***with*** fear.

There are other uses for the word ***with*** *in English phrasal verbs and in English expressions (or idioms). Please refer to the section is this book about phrasal verbs and idioms and expressions.*

Within

Within **usually means inside of some area:**

Examples:

- ***Within*** the room there were many fine paintings.

- ***Within*** the United States there are many fine universities.

Within can be used to express less than a specified period of time:

Examples:

- We should be finished ***within*** the hour.

- The bus usually comes ***within*** 15 minutes of the last bus. (Meaning: in less than 15 minutes after the last bus left.)

Within can be used to express less than a specified distance:

Examples:

- The library is ***within*** two miles of the university.

- We are ***within*** two miles of our destination.

Without

Without can mean not having:

Examples:

- She gets to school ***without*** a car. She walks.

- ***Without*** your help, I couldn't have finished the project.

- ***Without*** water, we would not be able to live long.

Without can be used to express the absence of someone or something:

Examples:

- The worker finished the project ***without*** his colleagues.

- The baby tiger won't survive long ***without*** its mother.

Without can be used to express the absence of action:

Examples:

- He received a lot of money ***without*** working.

- She is famous ***without*** doing anything extraordinary.

Chapter 6 Review

*Prepositions beginning with the letters **P** – **T***

*Instructions: read the sentences below. Decide whether the use of the preposition is correct or incorrect. If incorrect, which of these prepositions **best** fits the sentence: The answers can be found on the bottom of the practice.*

1. Prices of food have really gone ***up*** □correct □incorrect

2. The boats were sailing ***upon*** the water. □correct □incorrect

3. The teacher worked ***with*** students to help them understand the new chapter. □correct □incorrect

4. My friend arrived home ***with*** her groceries. I helped my friend ***until*** her groceries. □correct □incorrect

5. ***Without*** the help of my I could never have finished school. □correct □incorrect

6. We won't complete the project ***with*** next Wednesday. □correct □incorrect

7. Our bus traveled ***up*** the highway at high speed. □correct □incorrect

8. The water passes ***under*** the bridge. □correct □incorrect

9. Alice bought the car for ***under*** $30,000. □correct □incorrect

10. Lisa was her car ***without*** the help of her brothers. □correct □incorrect

Answers: (1) correct; (2) correct; (3) correct; (4) correct; (5) incorrect; should be ***to;*** (6) incorrect; should be (7) correct; (8) correct; (9) correct; (10) correct

Part 2 - *English Irregular Verbs Made Easy*

Use English Irregular Verbs Correctly in Every Sentence

Part 2 - Quick-Find Menu

Part 2 Introduction

Part 2 - A Note to Students

Verbs are listed in alphabetical order.

Chapter 1: *Irregular verbs beginning with the letters and* **C**

Irregular verbs beginning with **A**

Arise

Awake

Irregular verbs beginning with **B**

Be

Beat

Become

Begin

Bend

Bet

Bleed

Bite

Blow

Burst

Break

Bring

Build

Burn

Buy

Irregular verbs beginning with **C**

Catch

Choose

Come

Cost

Cling

Creep

Cut

Chapter 1 Irregular Verbs Review

Chapter 2: *Irregular verbs beginning with the letters and* ***F***

Irregular verbs beginning with **D**

Dig

Dive

Do

Deal

Draw

Dream

Drink

Drive

Irregular verbs beginning with **E**

Eat

Irregular verbs beginning with **F**

Fall

Feed

Feel

Fight

Fit

Find

Flee

Fling

Fly

Forbid

Forget

Forgive

Freeze

Chapter 2 Irregular Verbs Review

Chapter 3: *Irregular verbs beginning with the letters and* ***K***

Irregular verbs beginning with **G**

Get

Go

Grind

Grow

Give

Irregular verbs beginning with **H**

Hang

Have

Hear

Hide

Hit

Hold

Hurt

Irregular verbs beginning with **K**

Keep

Kneel

Knit

Know

Chapter 3 Irregular Verbs Review

Chapter 4: *Irregular verbs beginning with the letters and* ***Q***

Irregular verbs beginning with **L**

Lay

Lie

Lead

Leap

Lend

Let

Light

Lose

Irregular verbs beginning with **M**

Make

Mean

Meet

Irregular verbs beginning with **P**

Pay

Prove

Put

Irregular verbs beginning with **Q**

Quit

Chapter 4 Irregular Verbs Review

Chapter 5: *Irregular verbs beginning with the letters **R** and **S***

Irregular verbs beginning with **R**

Read

Ride

Rise

Run

Irregular verbs beginning with **S**

Say

See

Seek

Sell

Send

Set

Sew

Shake

Shave

Shine

Shoot

Show

Shrink

Shut

Sing

Sink

Sit

Sleep

Slide

Speak

Speed

Spend

Spill

Spin

Spit

Split

Spread

Spring

Stand

Steal

Stick

Stink

Sting

Strike

Swear

Sweep

Swim

Swing

Chapter 5 Irregular Verbs Review

Chapter 6: *Irregular verbs beginning with the letters and* ***W***

Irregular verbs beginning with **T**

Take

Teach

Tear

Tell

Think

Throw

Irregular verbs beginning with **U**

Understand

Upset

Irregular verbs beginning with **W**

Wake

Wear

Weave

Weep

Win

Wind

Withdraw

Wring

Write

Chapter 6 Irregular Verbs Review

Part 2 Introduction

Focus on Big Book Series
Making the difficult parts of learning English easy

A Guide to English Irregular Verbs for ESL Learners; Using English Irregular Verbs Correctly Every Time

This is a book about English irregular verbs. This is for low-intermediate through advanced ESL learners as well as other English learners wanting to improve their grammar. It is a guide to the correct use of the English irregular verbs, in a wide variety of real-life English sentence contexts. In addition to **complete and clear explanations** of the correct way to use irregular verbs, there are many **examples** of correct usage and **self reviews** throughout the book.

Each chapter is followed by a practice and review section, which is designed to help the student reinforce the lessons from the previous chapter.

The student is encouraged to use this book in three ways:

*As **a quick reference** The book layout and design make it easy for the student to quickly search for words or phrases of interest.*

*As a **learn-by-example** text. Every step of the way there are many clear examples of usage, making it easy for the student to understand*

how English speakers use irregular verbs in everyday communication.

*As **a grammar** This book was designed to help the student internalize the subject matter. The student is continuously challenged to generate, on his or her own, communication based on the lesson at hand. Reviews at the end of each chapter help the student to reinforce his or her new knowledge.*

Part 2 A note to students

Students are encouraged to use this text in groups, when possible. In a group, the student can practice using English irregular verbs by listening and speaking, as well as reading, which should make learning easier, faster and more fun.

Chapter 1 - *Irregular verbs beginning with the letters and* **C**

In this and following sections you will learn how to correctly use irregular English verbs in sentences.

You will have a chance to learn many things about irregular English verbs in this lesson. First, you will see the three important forms for the verb: base form (just the verb itself without conjugation), the simple past form, and the past participle form.

You will then see some common definitions for the verb,with many examples of use.

After you read the definitions, there are examples of how the verb is used in different tenses: one example for the simple present, one example for the simple past, and one example using the past participle (usually in the present perfect tense).

Irregular verbs beginning with the letters A, B, and C

most of the past participle examples are demonstrated in the ***present perfect*** *tense which is made up of the helper verb* ***have*** *or* ***has*** *plus the irregular verb in the* ***past participle*** *form.*

Irregular verbs beginning with A

Arise (base), arose (simple past), arisen (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To wake up; 2. To ascend or go up

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Anthony ***arises*** every morning and has coffee.

- (Simple Past) Anthony ***arose*** yesterday and had a bowl of cereal.

- (Past Participle) Anthony ***has arisen*** and has had a bowl of cereal.

Now you try: (Simple Past) My sister _____ this morning and brushed her teeth.

Awake (base), awoke (simple past), awoken (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To rouse from sleep; 2. To become aware of something.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Sandra ***awakes*** to the sound of her alarm clock every morning at 7 o'clock.

- (Simple Past) Sandra ***awoke*** very early in the morning yesterday.

- (Past Participle) Sandra has ***awoken*** and has had her breakfast.

Note: The verb which is a regular verb, can be used in the exact same way as In some English-speaking areas, it is much more common to use the word ***For*** *it would be more common to say: Sandra awakens to the sound of her alarm clock every morning.*

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) Jim ___ _____ and has already taken a shower.

Irregular verbs beginning with B

Be (base), was/were (simple past), been (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To exist; 2. To occupy a specific place; 3 To take place *(and many more meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) I ***am*** in the city every day except for Saturday and Sunday.

- (Simple Past) I ***was*** in Italy last year. We ***were*** in France last September.

- (Past Participle) I have ***<u>been</u>*** in Tokyo, Japan.

Now you try: (Simple Present) She ___ in the building every day except for Sunday.

Beat (base), beat (simple past), beaten (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To strike repeatedly, to pound, to flap; 2. To prevail over another, as in a competition; 3 To arrive or finish before another *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) I ***<u>beat</u>*** my friend to work every morning. We leave our homes at the same time, but he drives more slowly.

- (Simple Past) Our team ***<u>beat</u>*** the other team last year. I hope they don't beat us this year.

- (Past Participle) We have ***<u>beaten</u>*** that team for two years now.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Our team _____ their team last year.

Become (base), became (simple past), become (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To change into, transform into, or grow into over time *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Alice ***becomes*** nervous when she walks through the city at night.

- (Simple Past) Last year Kyoko ***became*** the first female police officer to win the special award for bravery.

- (Past Participle) Over the past three years, our school basketball team has ***become*** a strong team.

Now you try: (past participle, present perfect) Over the past two years, I ___ _____ a better student.

Begin (base), began (simple past), begun (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To start or commence; to take the first step in doing something *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The class always ***begins*** at 8 o'clock in the morning.

- (Simple Past) Stefan ***began*** his English studies last month.

- (Past Participle) You are late. We have already ***begun*** working on our group project.

Now you try: (simple past) Kaori _____ her English training two years ago.

Bend (base), bent (simple past), bent (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To force something to curve or change shape; 2. To create tension by applying force *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Ironworkers ***bend*** steel rods into different shapes while they build tall buildings.

- (Simple Past) Hiro ***bent*** his golf club when he threw it against the tree.

- (Past Participle) This is the second time you have ***bent*** this knife. Please be more careful.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Mayumi _____ her golf club when she hit the ground.

Bet (base), bet (simple past), bet (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To wager; 2. Something valuable risked on an uncertain outcome

Examples:

- (Simple Present) When people go to Las Vegas, they go to the casinos and ***bet*** money.

- (Simple Past) Last week, Tanya ***bet*** her husband that she could arrive home from work before he did.

- (Past Participle) Jill and her husband like to go to the horse races at night. The have ***bet*** on horse races for three years.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Hiroko _____ her friend that she could pass the exam.

Bleed (base), bled (simple past), bled (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To lose blood; 2. To drain. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) When traveling to high altitudes, some people's noses

- (Simple Past) Janice cut herself cutting up vegetables for dinner. She ***bled*** for about two minutes before she put a bandage on the wound.

- (Past Participle) The mechanic has ***bled*** the fluid from the brake system and is now ready to replace the brakes.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Cynthia cut herself by accident and _____ for about two minutes before she put a bandage on the wound.

Bite (base), bit (simple past), bitten (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To grip, cut, or tear, sometimes with one's teeth, or with a tool or other object; 2. Sometimes used to refer to sting. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Just before the sun goes down, the mosquitoes really

- (Simple Past) Alex ***bit*** his lip when he jumped over the puddle.

- (Past Participle) That dog is very dangerous. It has ***bitten*** many people.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Ted's dog _____ the stranger.

Blow (base), blew (simple past), blown (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To push or expel air from the mouth or from something; 2. Refers to the movement of air as from the wind or in weather. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The wind ***blows*** from the north every September.

- (Simple Past) During her birthday party, Yuki ***blew*** out the candles on her cake.

- (Past Participle) The wind has ***blown*** hard for two days.

Now you try: (Past participle. present perfect) The wind ___ _____ very little in the past two days.

Burst (base), burst (simple past), burst (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To explode or fly apart usually because of some internal pressure; 2. To arrive suddenly and unexpectedly. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Every time we blow up these cheap balloons, they

- (Simple Past) Wendy ***burst*** into the room and demanded to speak to the manager.

- (Past Participle) This is the second time a tire has ***burst*** on my car!

Now you try: (Simple Past) The manager _____ into the room and fired everyone.

Break (base), broke (simple past), broken (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To divide into pieces usually by force of bending or applying pressure, as in snap off; 2. To cause to separate or divide into pieces, usually violently or suddenly. 3. To cause to stop functioning. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) I ***break*** my pencil tip every time I take an exam.

- (Simple Past) Hiroko dropped and ***broke*** her best dinner plate during dinner last night.

- (Past Participle) My sister and I have ***broken*** three computers in the past eight months. We have to be more careful when we use a computer.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Mika _____ her sewing machine yesterday.

Bring (base), brought (simple past), brought (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To take or carry something with you; 2. To cause to occur or happen. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Yukiko ***brings*** her favorite pen to school with her every day.

- (Simple Past) Claudia ***brought*** her boyfriend to the party with her.

- (Past Participle) This is the third time that Tom has ***brought*** good grades home from school.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) This is the second time that Jennifer has ___ _____ a red dress home from the mall.

Build (base), built (simple past), built (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To create, form or construct something ; 2. To make stronger, increase, or improve upon something by gradually adding to it. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The Ajax Construction Company ***builds*** houses.

- (Simple Past) He ***built*** his good reputation with hard work.

- (Past Participle) Jim and Nigel have ***built*** three race cars together.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) Don's company ___ _____ three homes.

Burn (base), burned (simple past), burned (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To light, ignite, or destroy with fire; 2. To consume fuel. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Wood, paper and plastic ***burn*** when set on fire.

- (Simple Past) The man ***burned*** all of his money and moved to an island in the Pacific Ocean.

- (Past Participle) Driving to California, we have ***burned*** about thirty gallons of fuel since this morning.

Now you try: (Simple Past) After cleaning his yard, Alex _____ the trash in his back yard.

Buy (base), bought (simple past), bought (past participle):

Some common meaning: 1. To purchase, acquire, or get something in exchange for money or something of similar value.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Rosie usually ***buys*** flour and vegetables when she goes to the food store.

- (Simple Past) Simone ***bought*** the new bathing suit last week.

- (Past Participle) The manager of the soccer team has ***bought*** at least fifty soccer balls this year.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Simon _____ a new car suit last week.

Irregular verbs beginning with C

Catch (base), caught (simple past), caught (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To take hold of, capture, or seize usually after a chase; 2. To become infected by something, usually illness. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The early bird always ***catches*** the worm.

- (Simple Past) The fishermen ***caught*** many fish when they went to sea.

- (Past Participle) Many of the students in the class have ***caught*** a cold this has week.

Now you try: (Simple Past) We _____ a frog by the lake.

Choose (base), chose (simple past), chosen (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To select from a number of possibilities; 2. To prefer something or someone. (and other meanings)

Examples:

- (Simple Present) She always ***chooses*** the funny programs when she watches TV.

- (Simple Past) Danielle ***chose*** a very nice restaurant for dinner last night.

- (Past Participle) The manager has ***chosen*** Frank to organize the company party.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Albert _____ a nice color for his new car.

Come (base), came (simple past), come (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To move or advance towards something or someone; 2. To arrive at or reach a location, understanding or condition. *(and many other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) She ***comes*** to class late every day.

- (Simple Past) Nicole ***came*** to New York City about three years ago.

- (Past Participle) The students have ***come*** to understand that they must study hard in this class.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Frank _____ to Honolulu about a year ago.

Cost (base), cost (simple past), cost (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To require payment or have as a price; 2. To estimate or determine the value of something (to cost out something). *(and many other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The new sports car ***costs*** $150,000.

- (Simple Past) When they bought that house last year, it ***cost*** a lot of money.

- (Past Participle) His bad behavior has ***cost*** him his freedom. Now he must spend time in jail.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) The apples _____ always _____ one dollar per pound.

Cling (base), clung (simple past), clung (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To hold on to, stick to, or adhere to something or someone; 2. To stay close to one another. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The children ***cling*** to their mother's side as they walk through the city.

- (Simple Past) Pieces of cheese ***clung*** to the empty pizza plate.

- (Past Participle) He has ***clung*** to that old bible for twenty five years.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Allison _____ to the side of the pool while she talked to her friend.

Creep (base), crept (simple past), crept (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To move along very slowly or cautiously; 2. To move along with the body close to the ground. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The traffic always ***creeps*** along during rush hour.

- (Simple Past) The little boy ***crept*** into the kitchen to take a cookie from the cookie jar.

- (Past Participle) That snake has ***crept*** slowly towards the bird for five minutes.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The cat _____ towards the little bird.

Cut (base), cut (simple past), cut (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To sever or penetrate with something sharp; 2. To separate from something else; to reduce in size or length, as in cut one's hair. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The family is poor so the mother always ***cuts*** her children's hair.

- (Simple Past) Janice ***cut*** her finger with the knife.

- (Past Participle) Barbara has ***cut*** hair at the same beauty salon for ten years.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Janice _____ the birthday cake.

Chapter 1 Review

Irregular verbs beginning with the letters A, B and C

Directions: If the verb is used correctly in the sentence check "Correct", if it is not used correctly check If the sentence is then check the correct verb tense box: or ***past*** *If the verb is "Incorrect," check the box next to the verb tense that* ***should*** *be used in the correct version of the sentence. Answers can be found by reviewing chapter 1 carefully.*

1. Anthony **arised** yesterday and had a bowl of cereal. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

2. The little boy **crept** into the kitchen to take a cookie from the cookie jar. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

3. Janice **cutted** her finger with the knife. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

4. The manager of the soccer team has **bought** at least fifty soccer balls this year. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

5. Danielle **chose** a very nice restaurant for dinner last night. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

6. The fishermen **catched** many fish when they went to sea.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

7. The man **burned** all of his money and moved to an island in the Pacific Ocean. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

8. Claudia **brought** her boyfriend to the party with her.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

9. My sister and I have **broken** three computers in the past eight months. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

10. Every time we **blow** up these cheap balloons, they burst!
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

11. That dog is very dangerous. It has **bitten** many people.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

12. She **bled** for about two minutes before she put a bandage on the wound. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

13. Last week, Tanya **betted** her husband that she could arrive home from work before he did. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

14. You are late. We have already **begun** working on our group project. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

15. Last year Kyoko became the first female police officer to win the special award for bravery. __Past Participle

Chapter 2 - *Irregular verbs beginning with the letters **E** and **F***

Again, in this chapter, after you read the definitions, there are examples of how the verb is used in different tenses: one example for the simple present, one example for the simple past, and one example using the past participle (usually in the present perfect tense).

Irregular verbs beginning with the letters D, E and F

*most of the past participle examples are demonstrated in the **present perfect** tense which is made up of the helper verb **have** or **has** plus the irregular verb in the **past participle** form.*

Irregular verbs beginning with D

Dig (base), dug (simple past), dug (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To penetrate a surface (usually soil, rock, sand, etc) by turning it over or removing it; 2. To poke or force down into something. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) A dog ***digs*** a hole to bury its bone.

- (Simple Past) The backpack ***dug*** into Allan's back, but he continued walking.

- (Past Participle) The treasure hunters have ***dug*** for weeks but have not discovered treasure.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The workers _____ the hole.

Dive (base), dove (simple past), dived (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To plunge, usually headfirst, into water or air; 2. To drop sharply and rapidly, as in prices. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Whenever my sister goes to the swimming pool, she ***dives*** into the deep end.

- (Simple Past) The bungee jumper ***dove*** off the bridge.

- (Past Participle) The price of fuel has ***dived*** another ten cents per liter since yesterday.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) The price of potatoes ___ _____ another penny a pound.

Do (base), did (simple past), done (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To perform, put into motion, or execute something; 2. To carry out, undertake or commit; 3. To have as your employment, occupation, or profession (as in: "What do you do?"). *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) We usually ***do*** the dishes before we go to bed.

- (Simple Past) I don't want to go to the movies tonight. I ***did*** that last night.

- (Past Participle) It is time to stop working because we have ***done*** enough work for today. Let's go home.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) We'__ _____ enough today. Let's go have a drink.

Deal (base), dealt (simple past), dealt (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To distribute something to a number of recipients; 2. To be about or concerned with (as in a book that ***deals*** with English grammar); 3. To do business in a particular area (he ***deals*** in diamonds). *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) My father has a computer store. He ***deals*** in business computers.

- (Simple Past) That was a good movie last night. It ***dealt*** with the story of two lovers.

- (Past Participle) I have ***dealt*** the cards, now let's play!

Now you try: (Simple Past) Chapter fourteen _____ with phrasal verbs.

Draw (base), drew (simple past), drawn (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To pull or drag something; 2. To sketch, illustrate or paint; 3. To attract interest in something or someone. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The horses ***draw*** (pull) the cart.

- (Simple Past) My sister ***drew*** that picture.

- (Past Participle) The movie was very popular. It has ***drawn*** (attracted) thousands of viewers.

Now you try: (Simple Past) My friend _____ the diagram.

Dream (base), dreamed (simple past), dreamed (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To experience thoughts and images while sleeping; 2. To hope for something in the future. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Michelle ***dreams*** of the day when she can travel to asia.

- (Simple Past) Last night I ***dreamed*** I was in Hawaii.

- (Past Participle) All of her life, Keiko has ***dreamed*** of becoming a ballerina.

Now you try: (Simple Past) I fell asleep and _____ I was flying.

Drink (base), drank (simple past), drunk (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To take in or swallow liquid; 2. To absorb (as a sponge absorbs water). *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Jonah ***drinks*** a cup of green tea every day.

- (Simple Past) I have a headache. I think we ***drank*** too much beer last night.

- (Past Participle) That juice is delicious. I've ***drunk*** that before while visiting the United States.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Participle) We'___ _____ six cans of beer since we've been here.

Drive (base), drove (simple past), driven (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To guide or control a motor vehicle; 2. To force, push, move or propel something. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Three of our students ***drive*** to school every day.

- (Simple Past) The cowboys ***drove*** the herd of horses across the desert.

- (Past Participle) I have ***driven*** to Los Angeles three times.

Now you try: (Simple Past) I _____ the car to Cape Town.

Irregular verbs beginning with E

Eat (base), ate (simple past), eaten (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To consume or take food into the body; 2. To use up, to deplete (as, for example, fuel). *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Students ***eat*** two meals per day at the school cafeteria.

- (Simple Past) We ***ate*** lobster for dinner last night.

- (Past Participle) Our vacation in Italy has ***eaten*** up all of our money.

Now you try: (Simple Past) They _____ vanilla ice cream for dessert.

Irregular verbs beginning with F

Fall (base), fell (simple past), fallen (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To drop, tumble, descend towards the ground or lower position; 2. To drop, as in value or worth. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) When a surfer ***falls*** off of his surfboard, the wave covers him up.

- (Simple Past) I laughed so hard I ***fell*** off of my chair.

- (Past Participle) The price of food has ***fallen*** again today.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Peter _____ off his horse but wasn't hurt.

Feed (base), fed (simple past), fed (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To give food; 2. To supply. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Denise ***feeds*** her cat twice a day.

- (Simple Past) I ***fed*** the carpenter wood as he built the house. *(Meaning: I supplied the carpenter with wood.)*

- (Past Participle) Over the past years, I have ***fed*** my dogs well. They eat twice a day and I give them treats.

Now you try: (Simple Past) I _____ my dog some hamburger.

Feel (base), felt (simple past), felt (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To be aware of something through your physical sense of touch; 2. To be emotionally aware of something; 3. To perceive your own physical condition (as in ***feeling*** tired). *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) I ***feel*** good after walking on the beach.

- (Simple Past) The surface of the furniture ***felt*** very smooth.

- (Past Participle) I have ***felt*** sad since my cat died.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) She ___ _____ sad since her boyfriend left her.

Fight (base), fought (simple past), fought (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To struggle against someone or something, physically or with words; 2. To work very hard to achieve something. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Workers sometimes ***fight*** for higher salaries.

- (Simple Past) Jane ***fought*** with the storeowner about the high price of the food in his store.

- (Past Participle) My uncle has ***fought*** in two wars.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Kimberly _____ with her colleagues about the project.

Fit (base), fit (simple past), fit (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To be the right size for something; 2. To be right for something, or be suited or acceptable for something. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) A size seven dress always ***fits*** her.

- (Simple Past) Paul never went with us because he didn't ***fit*** in with our group of friends.

- (Past Participle) All ten of us have ***fit*** into that car at the same time!

Now you try: (Simple Past) The dress _____ Silvia perfectly.

Find (base), found (simple past), found (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To discover, or to discover after searching; 2. To become more aware of something *(I found English to be very helpful)*. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) I always ***find*** money in the washing machine.

- (Simple Past) I ***found*** my car keys on the kitchen table.

- (Past Participle) I have ***found*** that learning English can be very useful.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Sally _____ the wallet in the street.

Flee (base), fled (simple past), fled (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To run away from *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The cat always ***flees*** from the dog when the dog comes in the house.

- (Simple Past) The bank robber ***fled*** from the police.

- (Past Participle) The people of the town have ***fled*** from the rising floodwaters.

Now you try: (Past Participle) The people of our city ____ _____ to safety from the tycoon.

Fling (base), flung (simple past), flung (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To toss or throw something, usually without *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Alice usually ***flings*** her coat on the chair when she comes home from work.

- (Simple Past) I ***flung*** my hat at the table but the hat landed on the floor.

- (Past Participle) The witness told us that the robber had ***flung*** a wallet into the trash while fleeing from the police.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Dana _____ the horseshoe at the peg, but she missed.

Fly (base), flew (simple past), flown (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To travel, float or move through the air above the ground; 2. To display a flag *(we flew our country's flag). (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) This airline usually ***flies*** every day.

- (Simple Past) I ***flew*** to New York to meet my friend.

- (Past Participle) I have ***flown*** with the same airline company for twenty years.

Now you try: (Simple Past) My friends _____ to Hong Kong for vacation.

Forbid (base), forbade (simple past), forbidden (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To not be allowed to do something; to prevent someone from doing something *(often used as a command)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) School rules ***forbid*** smoking in the building.

- (Simple Past) Her mother ***forbade*** her to go to the party.

- (Past Participle) She was ***forbidden*** to travel across the border.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The doctor _____ him to leave the hospital.

Forget (base), forgot (simple past), forgotten (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To be unable to remember something.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Janine sometimes ***forgets*** to bring a pencil to school.

- (Simple Past) I ***forgot*** to pay for the meal at the restaurant!

- (Past Participle) The party has been so much fun that we have ***forgotten*** what time it is.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) We'___ _____ to buy a present for our friend's wedding party.

Forgive (base), forgave (simple past), forgiven (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To excuse or pardon someone or something.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The manager ***forgives*** employees who are late because of bad weather.

- (Simple Past) The shop owner ***forgave*** the poor woman for stealing an apple.

- (Past Participle) Sally has ***forgiven*** her boyfriend for arriving late for their date.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The manager _____ the employee for making a mistake.

Freeze (base), froze (simple past), frozen (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To become ice; 2. To be very cold; 3. To be stuck or immobile.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Water ***freezes*** at 32 degrees Fahrenheit, 0 degrees Celsius.

- (Simple Past) The weather was cold and Yuko ***froze*** without a jacket on.

- (Past Participle) I was walking in the mall when someone called my name. As soon as I heard their voice, I It was an old friend from many years ago.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The water _____ quickly in the freezer.

Chapter 2 Review

Irregular verbs beginning with the letters D, E and F

*Directions: If the verb is used correctly in the sentence check "Correct", if it is not used correctly check "Incorrect". If the sentence is then check the correct verb tense box: or <u>past</u> If the verb is "Incorrect," check the box next to the verb tense that **should** be used in the correct version of the sentence. Answers can be found in chapter 2, above.*

1. The worker **<u>dug</u>** a hole in the ground this morning.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

2. The teacher has **<u>forgaven</u>** the student for being late.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

3. The weather was cold and the water on the walkway __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

4. Her mother **<u>forbade</u>** her to go to the party last night.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

5. I think we have **<u>forgotten</u>** our keys. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

6. Anna **<u>fed</u>** her baby some milk this morning. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

7. I laughed so hard I **fell** off of my chair. __Correct
__Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

8. The taxi driver **drove** me to the concert. __Correct
__Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

9. We **eated** fish for dinner last night. __Correct __Incorrect
__Present __Past __Past Participle

10. All of her life, Keiko has **dreamed** of becoming a ballerina.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

11. After running, we **drinked** a lot of water. __Correct
__Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

12. The little boy **drew** a picture of his sister. __Correct
__Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

13. I have **dealt** the cards, now let's play! __Correct __Incorrect
__Present __Past __Past Participle

14. I **did** yoga for three hours yesterday. __Correct __Incorrect
__Present __Past __Past Participle

15. The bungee jumper **dove** off the bridge. __Correct
__Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

Chapter 3 - *Irregular verbs beginning with the letters **H** and **K***

Again, in this chapter, after you read the definitions, there are examples of how the verb is used in different tenses: one example for the simple present, one example for the simple past, and one example using the past participle (usually in the present perfect tense).

Irregular verbs beginning with the letters G, H and K

most of the past participle examples are demonstrated in the **present perfect** tense which is made up of the helper verb ***have*** or ***has*** plus the irregular verb in the **past participle** form.

Irregular verbs beginning with G

Get (base), got (simple past), gotten or got (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To receive something; 2. To purchase or buy something; 3. To arrive at or reach a destination; 4. To possess or own something (when used with the present perfect tense, as in: *We've got* 5 To become (to change into an emotional state like angry or mad, as in: *He got angry when they told him the* and other meanings.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Rafael always ***gets*** a soft drink when he goes to the store.

- (Simple Past) My sister ***got*** a cold last week, but she is fine now.

- (Past Participle) We haven't ***gotten*** to New York yet. The pilot said that we should be there in five more hours.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Everyone in the class _____ a cold two weeks ago.

Go (base), went (simple past), gone (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To move or travel; 2. To function or work properly *(as in: the car won't go because the motor isn't working);* 3. To pass from person to person (as in: the rumor was going around the town.). *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Tobias ***goes*** to Hawaii every year.

- (Simple Past) We ***went*** to Asia last year.

- (Past Participle) They haven't ***gone*** to the movies in a month.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) Calvin _____ _____ to work in two days.

Grind (base), ground (simple past), ground (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To crush something into small particles, powder or dust; 2. To rub two surfaces together in a harsh way *(The wheels on that wagon (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Fijians ***grind*** kava root to make a powder.

- (Simple Past) The flour factory ***ground*** some wheat to make flour.

- (Past Participle) We haven't ***ground*** our own coffee for two weeks.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) Patricia _____n't _____ the coffee yet.

Grow (base), grew (simple past), grown (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To expand, gain or increase in size; 2. To become *(as in: he grew (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Corn ***grows*** very quickly.

- (Simple Past) They ***grew*** flowers in that plant nursery, but now they grow trees.

- (Past Participle) During the years or their friendship they have ***grown*** to trust each other.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The children _____ quickly and always needed new clothes.

Give (base), gave (simple past), given (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To transfer something from one person to another; 2. to convey (the word convey means to transfer, give over to someone, or transmit via speech, as in: I gave him my best regards.). (and other meanings)

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The grocery clerk always ***gives*** me a free apple when I shop at his store.

- (Simple Past) They ***gave*** him a beautiful birthday present.

- (Past Participle) My company has ***given*** me a raise in pay this year.

Now you try: (Simple Past) My sister _____ me a nice present for the holiday.

Irregular verbs beginning with H

Hang (base), hung (simple past), hung (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To suspend something from above or a higher position; 2. To stop functioning in the middle of operation *(as in: the computer program always hangs when loading (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) He always ***hangs*** his hat on the chair.

- (Simple Past) They ***hung*** the rope from the tree.

- (Past Participle) The art museum has ***hung*** all of its best paintings on that wall.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The boy _____ the rope from the branch.

Have (base), had (simple past), had (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To be in possession of; 2. To cause to do something *(as in: I had my car cleaned at the car (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Angelina ***has*** two children.

- (Simple Past) The children ***had*** a good time at the beach.

- (Past Participle) Albert has ***had*** many good opportunities to learn English.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) The students _____ _____ many good opportunities to practice English.

Hear (base), heard (simple past), heard (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To sense, perceive or be aware of sound (by ear); 2. To learn about something *(as in: I heard that we are having an exam on (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Some animals ***hear*** very well.

- (Simple Past) When we went to the beach we ***heard*** the sound of children playing.

- (Past Participle) I've never ***heard*** of that before!

Now you try: (Simple Past) The police _____ the robber inside the house.

Hide (base), hid (simple past), hidden (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To conceal something, to put or keep from being seen; 2. To seek refuge *(as in: The refugees hid in the (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) When I travel, I always ***hide*** money in my shoe.

- (Simple Past) Jack ***hid*** his spare car key under his front bumper.

- (Past Participle) The stars are ***hidden*** by the bright lights of the city.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Kathleen _____ her money under her mattress.

Hit (base), hit (simple past), hit (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To strike something or someone; 2. To reach *(as in: He hit 25 on his last (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) When some people ***hit*** old age, they are in very good health.

- (Simple Past) Jackie ***hit*** the curb with her tire while driving.

- (Past Participle) The amount of poverty in some countries has ***hit*** a new, higher level.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Tom _____ the ball with his bat.

Hold (base), held (simple past), held (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To have something or to keep in one's grasp; 2. To contain something *(as in: The fuel tank holds (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) This jar ***holds*** two liters of water.

- (Simple Past) Steve ***held*** his fishing pole in one hand and a beer in the other hand.

- (Past Participle) Jim has ***held*** many important positions in his company.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) Dennis ___ _____ the same position in his company for nine years.

Hurt (base), hurt (simple past), hurt (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To injure or cause physical pain; 2. To damage (as in: The soccer player's bad behavior hurt the team.). (and other meanings)

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Her poor job record ***hurts*** her chances of getting a good job in the future.

- (Simple Past) Steve ***hurt*** his finger with the fishing hook.

- (Past Participle) Our company was ***hurt*** by poor economic conditions.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Sal _____ his foot when he fell.

Irregular verbs beginning with K

Keep (base), kept (simple past), kept (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To hold onto something; to retain possession of something; 2. To continue to do something *(as in: She kept walking even though her foot* 3. To take care of *(as in: We have kept dogs for two years.) (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) William always ***keeps*** a credit card with him.

- (Simple Past) My girlfriend ***kept*** asking me for my picture.

- (Past Participle) Yumiko has ***kept*** a cat for five years.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) Yuki ___ _____ two dogs for more than a year.

Kneel (base), knelt (simple past), knelt (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To go down on, or rest on, both knees.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Many people ***kneel*** and pray at the sacred wall.

- (Simple Past) After the race, the runner ***knelt*** in the grass to catch his breath.

- (Past Participle) Many people have ***knelt*** at this alter.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The people _____ in the temple.

Knit (base), knit / knitted (simple past), knit / knitted (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To join closely; 2. To make or weave a fabric with thread or yarn. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) You ***knit*** with two knitting needles and colorful yarn.

- (Simple Past) She ***knitted*** a beautiful blanket for her friend.

- (Past Participle) These sweaters were ***knitted*** by my friend.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Her mother _____ her a beautiful sweater.

Know (base), knew (simple past), known (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To be familiar with something, to have an understanding of something or to have something fixed in the mind; 2. To be acquainted with someone or something. *(and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) All of you ***know*** what the rules are for taking exams: no talking, no books on your desk and cell phones off.

- (Simple Past) I ***knew*** her when she was just a little girl.

- (Past Participle) We have ***known*** each other for ten years.

Now you try: (Simple Past) I _____ that teacher from my other school.

Chapter 3 Review

Irregular verbs beginning with the letters G, H and K

*Directions: If the verb is used correctly in the sentence check "Correct", if it is not used correctly check "Incorrect". If the sentence is then check the correct verb tense box: or <u>past</u> If the verb is "Incorrect," check the box next to the verb tense that **should** be used in the correct version of the sentence. Answers can be found in chapter 3, above.*

1. We haven't **<u>gotten</u>** our change yet from the cashier. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

2. We **<u>gone</u>** to Europe last year. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

3. My girlfriend **<u>kept</u>** asking me for my picture. □Correct □Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

4. She **<u>knitted</u>** a beautiful sweater for her friend. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

5. I **<u>knew</u>** her when she was just a little girl. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

6. Jim has **<u>held</u>** many important positions in his company. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

7. Jack **hitted** the ball with his bat. __Correct __Incorrect
__Present __Past __Past Participle

8. Julia **hid** the present under the table. __Correct __Incorrect
__Present __Past __Past Participle

9. We **heard** the fireworks last night. __Correct __Incorrect
__Present __Past __Past Participle

10. She always **hangs** her jacket in the closet. __Correct
__Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

11. They **gived** him a beautiful birthday present. __Correct
__Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

12. They **grew** fruit in their back yard last year. __Correct
__Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

13. The flour factory **grinds** wheat into flour. __Correct
__Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

14. Albert has **had** many good opportunities to learn English.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

15. Cynthia **hurted** her finger with the hammer. __Correct
__Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle.

Chapter 4 - *Irregular verbs beginning with the letters **P** and **Q***

Again, in this chapter, after you read the definitions, there are examples of how the verb is used in different tenses: one example for the simple present, one example for the simple past, and one example using the past participle (usually in the present perfect tense).

Irregular verbs beginning with the letters L, M, P and Q

*most of the past participle examples are demonstrated in the **present perfect** tense which is made up of the helper verb **have** or **has** plus the irregular verb in the **past participle** form.*

Irregular verbs beginning with L

Lay (base), laid (simple past), laid (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To cause to lie down; 2. To put, place or set something onto a surface *(as in: I always lay the book on the table when I come (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) In the evening, the mother ***lays*** her baby in its bed to sleep.

- (Simple Past) She ***laid*** the pencil down on her book.

- (Past Participle) Bricks are ***laid*** on cement to form a wall.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The teacher _____ the book down on his desk.

Lie (base), lay (simple past), lain (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To recline; 2. To occupy a position, place or location (as in: The United States lies between Canada and Mexico on the North American continent.). (and other meanings)

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The Hawaiian Islands ***lie*** in the Pacific Ocean.

- (Simple Past) The dog ***lay*** outside all day.

- (Past Participle) The books have ***lain*** on the shelf for two years.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The baby _____ inside its crib.

the word ***lay*** is different from the word ***lie*** in the following ways:

Lay means to actively put or place something on something else.

Lie means the act of reclining or laying horizontal on a surface

Lay uses ***laid*** for its simple past and past participle

Lie uses ***lay*** for its simple past and ***lain*** for its past participle.

Note: the word, as in, to not tell the truth, is a regular English verb and uses ***lied*** for its simple past and past participle. There is no difference in pronunciation between ***lie*** (to recline) and ***lie*** (to not tell the truth).

Lead (base), led (simple past), led (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To guide, direct or show the way; 2. To live one's life *(as in: She led a life of devotion to her (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The tour guide leads visitors through the museum.

- (Simple Past) The teacher led his students through the difficult chapter.

- (Past Participle) The captain has led his men into many battles.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Alfred _____ us to the pub with the good beer.

Leap (base), leapt (simple past), leapt (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To spring or jump, usually upward; 2. To move quickly *(as in: He leapt into (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Frogs often ***leap*** from one giant leaf to another.

- (Simple Past) The hikers ***leapt*** over the stream.

- (Past Participle) We've ***leapt*** over many fallen tree branches during our hike.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) They'___ _____ over several rocks during their mountain walk.

Lend (base), lent (simple past), lent (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To allow someone to use something temporarily; 2. To give off, or assist in creating an

affect *(as in: The wood trim lent a warm feeling to the (and other meanings)*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) My friend always asks me if he can borrow my book. I always ***lend*** him my book.

- (Simple Past) Mark ***lent*** me his flashlight yesterday.

- (Past Participle) Over the years, the library has ***lent*** many books to people.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Alice _____ me ten dollars to buy the book.

Let (base), let (simple past), let (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To allow or permit something; 2. To release from (as in: I stepped on my sister's toe and she let out a yell.). (and other meanings)

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The teacher ***lets*** us take a break at 10 o'clock.

- (Simple Past) Marshall ***let*** the dog in one hour ago.

- (Past Participle) The shopkeeper has always ***let*** us pay by credit card.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The teacher _____ the students in the class even though they were late.

Light (base), lit / lighted (simple past), lit / lighted (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To cause to give off light, to illuminate something *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) We always ***light*** a candle before the ceremony.

- (Simple Past) Harvey ***lit*** the campfire.

- (Past Participle) The monks of the temple have ***lit*** the same lamp for many years.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) We _____ ____ the candles and we are ready for the party.

Lose (base), lost (simple past), lost (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To misplace or mislay something so that you are unable to find it; 2. To no longer have control

of something *(as in: I lost my driver's license because I had too many violations.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) He always ***loses*** his books on the very first day of class.

- (Simple Past) I ***lost*** my car keys yesterday.

- (Past Participle) Sam has ***lost*** his contact lenses and now cannot see well enough to drive.

Now you try: (Simple Past) She _____ her purse last night.

Irregular verbs beginning with M

Make (base), made (simple past), made (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To create, build, construct; 2. To cause something to come about *(as in: Her mother made her change her clothes.); 3. To earn (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The company ***makes*** car tires.

- (Simple Past) Allison ***made*** a wonderful dinner last night.

- (Past Participle) Jill has ***made*** a lot of money in her business.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Mother _____ a wonderful pasta for the party.

Mean (base), Meant (simple past), Meant (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To Signify or represent; 2. To have as an intention (as in: He meant go tell the teacher he would be late, but he forgot.); 3. Used to indicate value (as in: Her necklace meant a lot to her). (and other meanings).

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The word food ***means*** something to eat.

- (Simple Past) I ***meant*** to stop and buy milk, but I forgot.

- (Past Participle) Kyoko's job has always ***meant*** a lot to her.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Jon _____ to go shopping before he went home, but forgot.

Meet (base), Met (simple past), Met (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To come together by chance or by arrangement; To assemble *(as in: The group met to discuss important issues.)*. *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The group ***meets*** every Monday at 7pm.

- (Simple Past) I ***met*** my friend Al at the pub.

- (Past Participle) Class has always ***met*** at 8:30am.

Now you try: (Simple Past) We _____ our friends at the party.

Irregular verbs beginning with P

Pay (base), paid (simple past), paid (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To compensate or reimburse for something with money or something of value; To give or bestow *(as in: She paid the waiter a complement for his good service.)*. *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) First you ***pay*** the cashier, and then you can go inside the theater.

- (Simple Past) I ***paid*** too much money for that car.

- (Past Participle) We have already ***paid*** the waiter for our dinner.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The company _____ us one million dollars for the products.

Prove (base), proved (simple past), proven (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To demonstrate that something is true, to authenticate, to *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Students ***prove*** they are 18 years old by showing their ID cards at the door.

- (Simple Past) I ***proved*** to my girlfriend that I loved her by giving her a ring.

- (Past Participle) I have taken a driving test and have ***proven*** that I am a good driver.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) Scientists _____ _____ that the climate is becoming warmer.

Put (base), put (simple past), put (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To place or set something in a location; 2. To wager or bet *(as in: I'll put $25 on the black horse);* 3. To express in words *(as in: Put very simply, you're fired!). (and other meanings).*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) We usually ***put*** a donation in the box.

- (Simple Past) Tim ***put*** his homework on the teacher's desk yesterday.

- (Past Participle) Jamie has ***put*** all of her books in her locker and has gone to lunch.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The student _____ his finished exam on the teacher's desk.

Irregular verbs beginning with Q

Quit (base), quit (simple past), quit (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To stop doing something, to *(and other meanings).*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) People usually ***quit*** their jobs for good reasons.

- (Simple Past) Jason ***quit*** playing soccer because of an injury.

- (Past Participle) Three people have ***quit*** our company this week.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Don _____ working when he was 70 years old.

Chapter 4 Review

Irregular verbs beginning with the letters L, M, P and Q

*Directions: If the verb is used correctly in the sentence check "Correct", if it is not used correctly check "Incorrect". If the sentence is then check the correct verb tense box: or <u>past</u> If the verb is "Incorrect," check the box next to the verb tense that **should** be used in the correct version of the sentence. Answers can be found by carefully studying chapter 4 once again.*

1. **<u>quit</u>** playing soccer because of an injury. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

2. Jamie has **<u>put</u>** all of her books in her locker and has gone to lunch. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

3. She **<u>lain</u>** the pencil down on her book. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

4. The Hawaiian Islands **<u>lay</u>** in the Pacific Ocean. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

5. The teacher **<u>led</u>** his students through the difficult chapter. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

6. We've **leapt** over many fallen tree branches during our hike.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

7. My friend always **asks** me if he can borrow my book.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

8. Marshall **let** the dog into the house one hour ago. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

9. The monks of the temple have **lit** the same lamp for many years. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

10. I **lost** my car keys yesterday. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

11. I **meant** to stop and buy milk, but I forgot. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

12. I **met** my friend Al at the pub. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

13. We have already **paid** the waiter for our dinner. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

14. Tim **put** his homework on the teacher's desk yesterday.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

15. Three people have quit our company this week. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

Chapter 5 - *Irregular verbs beginning with the letters **R** and **S***

*Again, in this chapter, after you read the definitions, there are examples of how the verb is used in different tenses: one example for the **simple** one example for the **simple** and one example using the **past participle** (usually in the **present perfect** tense).*

Irregular verbs beginning with the letters R and S

*most of the past participle examples are demonstrated in the **present perfect** tense which is made up of the helper verb **have** or **has** plus the irregular verb in the **past participle** form.*

Irregular verbs beginning with R

Read (base), read (simple past), read (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To look at and understand the meanings of words and sentences; 2. To decipher the meaning of *(as in: The captain read the sky for signs of bad weather.) (and other meanings).*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Always ***read*** the instructions before taking an exam.

- (Simple Past) Yesterday, Peggy ***read*** four chapters from her history book.

- (Past Participle) One of the students in our class has ***read*** hundreds of books over the past two years.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) The English professor _____ _____ all of our essays.

Ride (base), rode (simple past), ridden (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To be carried by a vehicle or on the back of a horse or other animal; 2. To travel along *(as in: We rode the rails in many parts of Europe.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Thousands of people in Tokyo ***ride*** the subway every day.

- (Simple Past) He ***rode*** the bus to work yesterday.

- (Past Participle) My brothers and I have ***ridden*** the train to school since the beginning of the year.

Now you try: (simple past) Jennifer _____ a taxi to work last week.

Rise (base), rose (simple past), risen (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To come up, increase or ascend from a lower *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) In the winter, the sun ***rises*** later in the morning.

- (Simple Past) The homeless man ***rose*** to his feet and walked towards the city.

- (Past Participle) Albert has ***risen*** to the position of manager in a very short period of time.

Now you try: (Simple Present) The sun usually _____ in the east.

Run (base), ran (simple past), run (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To move swiftly on foot; 2. To flee or retreat from; 3. To make a short trip to somewhere; 4. To operate or cause to function; 5. To be offered as or to offer oneself as a political *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Eileen and Dan ***run*** for two miles every day.

- (Simple Past) I ***ran*** to the store and bought a package of chewing gum this morning.

- (Past Participle) Roger has ***run*** for president of our club three times in the past.

Now you try: (Past Perfect) The senator ____ ____ for office before.

Irregular verbs beginning with S

Say (base), said (simple past), said (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To express something in words; 2. To indicate or show (as in: the clock says it's time to eat.). (and other meanings).

Examples:

- (Simple Present) People sometimes ***say*** things that hurt other people.

- (Simple Past) I just read the sign and it ***said*** that we couldn't park here.

- (Past Participle) The teacher has at least three times, that the test will be given on Friday.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The sign _____ no smoking.

See (base), saw (simple past), seen (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To perceive or sense images through the eye; 2. To understand or comprehend something *(as in: I see what you are talking about now.). (and other meanings).*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The eagle has good eyesight and ***sees*** very tiny animals on the ground.

- (Simple Past) We ***saw*** the solar eclipse yesterday afternoon.

- (Past Participle) That old man has ***seen*** many things in his life.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The girls _____ the snake crawl into the bushes.

Seek (base), sought (simple past), sought (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To look for or search for; 2. To want to reach or obtain a certain goal *(as in: Alice seeks a degree*

in nursing.). (and other meanings).

Examples:

- (Simple Present) During a hot day, horses and cows ***seek*** the shade of a tree.

- (Simple Past) Margaret ***sought*** a good book on gardening.

- (Past Participle) Many companies have ***sought*** good employees, but good employees are hard to find.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The police _____ a man wearing a dark coat and sunglasses.

Sell (base), sold (simple past), sold (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To exchange or deliver something for something else of value; 2. To persuade someone about something or to do something *(as in: The car salesman sold the customer on buying all of the accessories for the vehicle.). (and other meanings).*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) A furniture emporium is a big store that ***sells*** furniture.

- (Simple Past) Claudio ***sold*** his motor scooter last week.

- (Past Participle) We are too late. The store has ***sold*** all of it's English text books.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) We are too late. The grocery store ____ _____ all of it's bananas.

Send (base), sent (simple past), sent (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To mail, ship, dispatch, or transmit something to someone else; 2. To broadcast *(as in: The police sent the message by radio.)*. *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) My grandmother ***sends*** me a gift for my birthday every year.

- (Simple Past) The businessman ***sent*** a check to his supplier.

- (Past Participle) The package was ***sent*** yesterday.

Now you try: (Simple Past) I _____ a check to the tax department last week.

Set (base), set (simple past), set (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To put something in a position or location, to place; 2. To adjust something for proper operation (as in: The operator set the machine to cut thin slices.); To establish (as in: The runner set a new world record.) (and other meanings).

Examples:

- (Simple Present) When Mary gets home at night, she always ***sets*** her books on her desk.

- (Simple Past) Mark ***set*** his calculator on his car seat yesterday, but now he is unable to find it.

- (Past Participle) The swimmer has ***set*** two world records.

Now you try: (Simple Past) I _____ a check to the tax department last week.

Sew (base), sewed (simple past), sewn (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To join, attach, or repair by stitching with needle and thread *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Many people ***sew*** as a hobby.

- (Simple Past) The seamstress ***sewed*** the button on the dress.

- (Past Participle) His mother has ***sewn*** many buttons onto his shirts.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Her mother _____ the tear in her shorts.

Shake (base), shook (simple past), shaken (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To cause something to jerk, vibrate or move back and forth in a jerky motion; 2. To disturb or make someone very uneasy *(as in: The family was shaken by the loss of their home to fire.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) An earthquake ***shakes*** the ground, which sometimes causes buildings to fall.

- (Simple Past) Robbie ***shook*** the vending machine to get his candy.

- (Past Participle) The airline passengers were ***shaken*** by the plane's sudden drop in altitude.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Rafael _____ his boots to let the dirt fall out.

Shave (base), shaved (simple past), shaven (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To remove facial or body hair, usually with a razor; 2. To remove a small amount of something *(as in: The carpenter shaved a little bit of wood from the end of the plank.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Alex gets up every morning and ***shaves*** his face.

- (Simple Past) The nurse ***shaved*** the hair from around the wound on her arm.

- (Past Participle) The homeless man hasn't ***shaven*** for two years.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Bob _____ his face early this morning.

Shine (base), shone / shined (simple past), shone / shined (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To make something bright and glossy; 2. To aim a beam of light (as in: The policeman shone the flashlight on the building.); 3. To emit light (and other meanings).

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The sun ***shines*** brightly.

- (Simple Past) The campers ***shone*** their light on the tree.

- (Past Participle) The housekeeper has ***shined*** the kitchen table and the dining room table.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) The cleaning lady ____ _____ all of the table surfaces.

Shoot (base), shot (simple past), shot (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To discharge or fire a weapon (gun or other weapon); 2. To hit with a bullet or other projectile, sometimes causing injury or damage; 3. To film, videotape, or photograph something *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Soldiers ***shoot*** at a paper target for practice.

- (Simple Past) The hunter ***shot*** the deer.

- (Past Participle) The film was ***shot*** in the desert.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The boy _____ the rifle.

Show (base), showed (simple past), shown (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To direct someone's attention to something or to display something; 2. To guide, direct, or lead someone *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The tour guide ***shows*** the tourists the old building.

- (Simple Past) The real estate agent ***showed*** the woman the apartment.

- (Past Participle) The film was ***shown*** in the theater.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Alicia _____ her friends her new dog.

Shrink (base), shrank / shrunk (simple past), shrunk (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To reduce in size; 2. To reduce in value *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Cotton t-shirts sometimes ***shrink*** when you wash them.

- (Simple Past) When I washed the t-shirt it

- (Past Participle) The value of the dollar has ***shrunk*** over the past two years.

Now you try: (Simple Past) When I washed my socks, they _____!

Shut (base), shut (simple past), shut (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To close or block entrance to something; 2. To confine or restrict something or someone to an enclosed space *(as in: The prisoners of war were shut in a small room.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) We always ***shut*** the door when we come in the house.

- (Simple Past) After she got out of the taxi, she ***shut*** the door.

- (Past Participle) We have always ***shut*** the windows when we've left the building.

Now you try: (Simple Past) After she left the house, she _____ the door.

Sing (base), sang (simple past), sung (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To make sounds or word in musical tones; to perform songs *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) I always ***sing*** in the shower. It makes me feel good.

- (Simple Past) It was a beautiful day. The birds ***sang*** and the sun shone.

- (Past Participle) Wendy has a beautiful voice. She has ***sung*** with some famous groups.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) We _____ _____ a lot of songs during karaoke parties.

Sink (base), sank (simple past), sunk (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To fall, drop or descend to a lower level; 2. To make an impression (as in: It finally sank in that I would not be able to complete the course this year.) (and other meanings).

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Huge waves at sea ***sink*** big ships.

- (Simple Past) I dropped a penny into the glass of water and it ***sank*** to the bottom.

- (Past Participle) The sun has ***sunk*** in the west.

Now you try: (Simple Past) I dropped my glasses into the pool and they _____ to the bottom.

Sit (base), sat (simple past), sat (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To change from one position (standing, lying, kneeling, etc.), to placing your hindquarters onto a surface and resting in that position; 2. Can be used to mean located or situated somewhere *(as in: The company building sits on the corner or Elm Street and Vine Road.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The teacher usually ***sits*** in the front of the room.

- (Simple Past) My girlfriend and I ***sat*** in the last row of the movie theater.

- (Past Participle) Many important people have ***sat*** in the seats at the U.N building.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Our friends _____ together at the dinner table.

Sleep (base), slept (simple past), slept (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To be in a state of unconscious rest *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) My brother usually ***sleeps*** late on Sundays.

- (Simple Past) Alice ***slept*** until 10am this morning and was late for work.

- (Past Participle) Many important leaders have ***slept*** in that hotel.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) We ___ _____ in at least ten hotels during our vacation.

Slide (base), slid (simple past), slid (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To glide, skim or slip over a, usually, smooth surface; 2. To move downward *(as in: The price of fuel has slid to a lower price.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Polar bears often ***slide*** on the ice and snow.

- (Simple Past) The car ***slid*** off the road and hit a tree.

- (Past Participle) Prices for computers have ***slid*** to new, lower prices over the past two years.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The children _____ down the water slide.

Speak (base), spoke (simple past), spoken (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To communicate thoughts, ideas, and opinions orally, with words; 2. To communicate without using words *(as in: Her eyes spoke of great sadness.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) My boyfriend lives in France, but I ***speak*** to him everyday by telephone.

- (Simple Past) The politician ***spoke*** to the crowd last night.

- (Past Participle) The movie star has ***spoken*** to the press four times today.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The teacher _____ to the student after class.

Speed (base), sped (simple past), sped (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To cause to move quickly, to hasten *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Alicia ***speeds*** to work in her car every morning because she is late.

- (Simple Past) The police car ***sped*** through the town.

- (Past Participle) Many cyclists have ***sped*** through the down during the race.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The motorcycle _____ along the road.

Spend (base), spent (simple past), spent (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To use up, pay out, expend (energy, time, money, resources) *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Jacques ***spends*** a lot of money on school.

- (Simple Past) We ***spent*** $40 on dinner last night.

- (Past Participle) We have already ***spent*** too much money on shopping today. I only have $10 left!

Now you try: (Simple Past) Marta _____ $500 for food yesterday.

Spill (base), spilled (simple past), spilled (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To cause something (often liquid) to run out of a container, often without control *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Jamie always ***spills*** her beer when she drinks too much.

- (Simple Past) The nurse knocked over the bottle and ***spilled*** the medicine.

- (Past Participle) Too much blood has been ***spilled*** in war.

Now you try: (Simple Past) John accidentally _____ his medicine on the table.

Spin (base), spun (simple past), spun (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To cause to rotate quickly, twirl or whirl; 2. To draw out and twist fiber to make thread or yarn *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The cloth factory ***spins*** cotton to make thread. The thread is used to make clothing.

- (Simple Past) The speeding car ***spun*** out of control.

- (Past Participle) For many years, the women of the village have ***spun*** thread to make clothing.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The wheels of the car _____ quickly as the car sped down the road.

Spit (base), spit / spat (simple past), spat (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To eject saliva from the mouth, or to eject something as if it came from the mouth, such as a projectile; 2. To release or emit something forcefully and suddenly *(as in: She was angry and spit out her feelings to the others.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The volcano ***spits*** out hot lava every day.

- (Simple Past) The criminal ***spat*** on the ground and then ran away.

- (Past Participle) The cat has ***spit*** at the dog two times, and now the dog will not attack.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The food tasted terrible and some people _____ it out onto their plate.

Split (base), split (simple past), split (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To separate, to divide in half; 2. To divide evenly, as with profits *(as in: At the end of the year the*

two business owners split the profits.) (and other meanings).

Examples:

- (Simple Present) When we go to the fruit stand the clerk ***splits*** an apple and gives one half to me and the other half to my brother.

- (Simple Past) The camper ***split*** the log and threw one half into the fire.

- (Past Participle) We have owned our business together for five years. We have always ***split*** the earnings equally.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) Husbands and wives _____ always _____ their financial responsibilities in half.

Spread (base), Spread (simple past), Spread (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To make wider or move to or more objects or people further apart; 2. To cover with a layer of something *(as in: She spread butter on the bread.) (and other meanings).*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Adrian always ***spreads*** his muffins with honey in the morning.

- (Simple Past) Yesterday, the boy ***spread*** the pieces of the puzzle on the table.

- (Past Participle) The children have ***spread*** their toys on the floor.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Her mother _____ butter on the toast.

Spring (base), Sprang (simple past), Sprung (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To leap, jump or bound; 2. To move or occur suddenly *(as in: The police sprung into action.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The competitor ***springs*** forward when the starting gun is fired.

- (Simple Past) The faucet **sprung** a leak. (Meaning: The faucet began leaking suddenly.)

- (Past Participle) Some campers have gotten lost in the mountains, but rescuers have ***sprung*** into action to rescue them.

Now you try: (Simple Past) When he heard the loud noise, he _____ from his seat and ran to the window.

Stand (base), stood (simple past), stood (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To rise to and maintain an upright vertical position; 2. To rise to an upright position on the feet *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The broom always ***stands*** in the corner with the other cleaning tools.

- (Simple Past) We ***stood*** in line at the theater for two hours.

- (Past Participle) We've ***stood*** here for fifteen minutes waiting for a bus.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) I'____ _____ here for an hour waiting for my friends.

Steal (base), stole (simple past), stolen (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To take something without permission; 2. To draw attention to something or someone unexpectedly because of some action *(as in: The magic show was*

wonderful, but the clown stole the show with his act.) (and other meanings).

Examples:

- (Simple Present) My girlfriend always **steals** popcorn out of my popcorn bag when we are at the movies.

(Note: The word **steal** usually means take without permission, but is often used among friends to mean that one person has borrowed something without asking but it was okay to do this.)

- (Simple Past) Last night, someone **stole** the soccer ball from our front yard.

- (Past Participle) The dolphins have always **stolen** the show at the aquarium.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The thief _____ the woman's purse.

Stick (base), stuck (simple past), stuck (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To puncture, penetrate, prod or pierce, sometimes with a sharp object; 2. To place the blame or responsibility for some action or deed on someone *(as in: My friends stuck me with the bill at the restaurant.);* 3. To put, thrust or push something somewhere *(as in: He stuck the mail in the*

mailbox and rushed away.); 4. To glue or cause to adhere something to a surface *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The mail clerk ***sticks*** the mail in the post office boxes every day.

- (Simple Past) I ***stuck*** the stamp on the envelop and placed the letter in the mailbox.

- (Past Participle) The secretary has ***stuck*** mailing labels on one hundred envelopes.

Now you try: (Simple Past) I _____ the notice on the bulletin board.

Stink (base), stank / stunk (simple past), stunk (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To give off a bad or unpleasant odor; 2. To be highly offensive, untrustworthy, or of really poor quality *(as in: His business practices stink.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) That cheese always

- (Simple Past) That movie ***stunk*** last night.

- (Past Participle) This is not the first time he has come to work smelling like that. He has ***stunk*** like that for weeks.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The rotting food _____.

Sting (base), stung (simple past), stung (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To cause to feel a sharp pain, like when pricked or stuck with a needle, or the stinger part of certain insects like bees *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The wasp ***stings*** when it feels threatened.

- (Simple Past) During the inoculation, the needle ***stung*** my arm.

- (Past Participle, Present Perfect) The bees in this area have ***stung*** many people.

Now you try: (Past Participle) The wasps living in our back wall ____ _____ me several times.

Strike (base), struck (simple past), struck (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To hit or cause to contact something violently; 2. To collide with or crash into something *(as in: He struck his head on the lamp* 3. To stop work for an employer in protest of work conditions or low wages *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The golfer swings his club and ***strikes*** the ball perfectly.

- (Simple Past) Cynthia ***struck*** her knee on the leg of the dining room table.

- (Past Participle) This is the second time I have ***struck*** my head on that beam.

Now you try: (Simple Past) He was too tall for the doorway and he _____ his head when he entered the building.

Swear (base), swore (simple past), sworn (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To make a promise, vow or oath, usually declaring loyalty, honesty or truth; 2. To curse or use bad or profane language *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The new members ***swear*** an oath of loyalty to their club.

- (Simple Past) Last time I came to this place I ***swore*** I would never return, but I came back anyway.

- (Past Participle) The witness has ***sworn*** that he is telling the truth.

Now you try: (Simple Past) When the man hit his hand with the hammer, he _____.

Sweep (base), swept (simple past), swept (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To clear away or clean an area as with a broom or brush; 2. To search usually with the help of more than one person or with technical aids; 3. To clear away everything as with a storm or flood *(as in: The flood swept away the houses.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) My mother always ***sweeps*** the kitchen in the morning.

- (Simple Past) The storm ***swept*** the coastline causing much damage.

- (Past Participle) The police have ***swept*** the building for bombs and now it is safe to reenter.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The maid _____ the kitchen.

Swim (base), swam (simple past), swum (past participle):

A common meaning: 1. To move through the water using the power of limbs, fins, tails, etc., *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Eric ***swims*** in the pool every day.

- (Simple Past) My girlfriend and I ***swam*** in the ocean last night.

- (Past Participle) The competitors have ***swum*** fourteen laps in the pool since three o'clock.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Andy _____ in the pool last week.

Swing (base), swung (simple past), swung (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To hit at something with a sweeping motion; 2. To move back and forth while suspended from something (as in: The children swung from a rope in the tree.) *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The golfer ***swings*** his golf club to hit the ball.

- (Simple Past) We ***swung*** back and forth in the swing that hung from the tree. (Meaning: a ***swing*** is a seat connected to ropes that are tied to a tree branch.)

- (Past Participle) The baseball player has ***swung*** at the ball three times and has missed each time!

Now you try: (Simple Past) The man _____ the axe to cut the tree down.

Chapter 5 Review

Irregular verbs beginning with the letters R and S

*Directions: If the verb is used correctly in the sentence check "Correct", if it is not used correctly check "Incorrect". If the sentence is then check the correct verb tense box: or <u>past</u> If the verb is "Incorrect," check the box next to the verb tense that **should** be used in the correct version of the sentence. Answers can be found in chapter 5, above.*

1. The girl **<u>swore</u>** at her classmate after school. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

2. The waves from the ocean **<u>swept</u>** the coastline. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

3. My friends and I **<u>swimmed</u>** in the ocean after school. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

4. Cynthia **<u>struck</u>** her knee on the leg of the dining room table. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

5. The bee **<u>stung</u>** the little girl earlier today. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

6. The man **<u>sticked</u>** the stick in the ground about an hour ago. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

7. Last night, someone **stole** the radio from Adam's car.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

8. We **stood** in line at the concert hall for three hours to buy tickets. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

9. Albert **spreaded** butter and honey on his toast this morning.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

10. The teenager **spun** the wheels of his car, which made a loud noise. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

11. We **spent** $50 on food today. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

12. The police car **sped** through the town last night. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

13. Allison usually **speaks** to her friend every day by telephone.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

14. The plate **slided** off the table and fell to the floor. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

15. It was a beautiful day. The birds **sang** and the sun shone.
__Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

Chapter 6 - *Irregular verbs beginning with the letters* ***U*** *and* ***W***

Again, in this chapter, after you read the definitions, there are examples of how the verb is used in different tenses: one example for the simple present, one example for the simple past, and one example using the past participle (usually in the present perfect tense).

Irregular verbs beginning with the letters T, U and W

most of the past participle examples are demonstrated in the ***present perfect*** *tense which is made up of the helper verb* ***have*** *or* ***has*** *plus the irregular verb in the* ***past participle*** *form.*

Irregular verbs beginning with T

Take (base), took (simple past), taken (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To get into your possession, to seize, to get hold of; 2. To draw in or absorb (as in: She stood on the beach and took in the beautiful sunset.); 3. To sit for an exam (as in: We took an exam yesterday.) *(and other meanings).*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Someone ***takes*** your ticket at the door before you enter the theater.

- (Simple Past) She ***took*** an apple from the apple tree.

- (Past Participle) We have ***taken*** three exams over the past two weeks.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) Janet _____ _____ three pieces of candy from the candy dish.

Teach (base), taught (simple past), taught (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To share knowledge or skill with someone; 2. To give instruction or training, especially as a profession *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The red ESL textbook ***teaches*** you basic English grammar.

- (Simple Past) Adam ***taught*** English to intermediate level English students.

- (Past Participle) Kelly has ***taught*** English for ten years.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Andrew _____ students how to speak English.

Tear (base), tore (simple past), torn (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To pull something apart or into pieces by force; to rend 2. To separate or divide by force *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) When you walk into the theater, the ticket taker ***tears*** your ticket in half and gives you the bottom half.

- (Simple Past) Alexis ***tore*** her boyfriend's love letter in half when she discovered he was dating another girl.

- (Past Participle) Sun Wah has ***torn*** her stocking while walking through the bushes.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Rene _____ a page our of the magazine.

Tell (base), told (simple past), told (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To express something with words; to convey by language; to give an account of something 2. To discover something by watching or observation *(as in: She could tell he was lying because he could not look at her.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Every day our teacher ***tells*** us that studying is important.

- (Simple Past) The old man ***told*** us the story about the ghost that lives in the woods.

- (Past Participle) Jenny has ***told*** the police about the robbery.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Our boss _____ us to complete the project by Wednesday.

Think (base), thought (simple past), thought (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. When you form thoughts in your mind; to ponder 2. To visualize or imagine (as in: Think how beautiful it will be in Hawaii.); 3. To form an opinion (as in: Everyone thought the movie was terrible.) (and other meanings).

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Karen ***thinks*** that money grows on trees!

- (Simple Past) Allison didn't come prepared for the exam. She ***thought*** the exam was next week.

- (Past Participle) Our committee has ***thought*** of many solutions to the problem, but the governor has approved none of them.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Aiko _____ she could learn English easily.

Throw (base), threw (simple past), thrown (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To hurl, fling, or toss an object through the air; 2. To put something on or take something off hastily or in a hurry in: *I threw on a coat and went outside.);* 3. To move a lever or switch from one side to the other in: *He threw the switch and the lights came on.) (and other meanings).*

Examples:

- (Simple Present) He ***throws*** a baseball really well!

- (Simple Past) After the picnic we ***threw*** our garbage in the trash.

- (Past Participle) We have ***thrown*** all of our beer cans into the trash since the end of the party.

Now you try: (Simple Past) James _____ his old notebook into the trash.

Irregular verbs beginning with U

Understand (base), understood (simple past), understood (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. When you comprehend the meaning of something 2. To have sympathy or tolerance for something said or done *(as in: I understand it has been a difficult time for you.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) All of our employees ***understand*** that tomorrow we only have to work a half day.

- (Simple Past) The student ***understood*** the lesson but still had a question for the teacher.

- (Past Participle) Gloria hasn't ***understood*** the teacher since the course began.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) None of the new students ____ _____ the homework assignments since last week.

Upset (base), upset (simple past), upset (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To overturn or capsize; 2. To cause someone distress, or to disturb someone or something *(as in: I upset the people in the audience.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The cat always ***upsets*** the flower vase when she jumps up on the table.

- (Simple Past) Kim ***upset*** his girlfriend when he told her he was leaving.

- (Past Participle) The speaker at the conference has ***upset*** everyone with his comments.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Raul _____ his parents with his bad grades from school.

Irregular verbs beginning with W

Wake (base), woke (simple past), woken (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To rouse from sleep, to stop sleeping; 2. To become alert (as in: The yelling woke him up and he realized that the manager was serious.) (and other meanings).

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Jill's dog likes to sleep. She ***wakes*** her dog up to go for a walk every morning.

- (Simple Past) On Saturday morning, he ***woke*** to the news that a typhoon was approaching his city.

- (Past Participle) The campers have ***woken*** up too late to see the sun rise.

Now you try: (Simple Past) His mother _____ him at 7:00am to go to school.

Wear (base), wore (simple past), worn (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To have on, as with clothing; 2. To damage, diminish in usefulness, or erode something over time *(as in: The tires of his car wore down over the long trip.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) All of this walking around the city wears me out.

- (Simple Past) She wore a beautiful gown for the wedding.

- (Past Participle) I have worn this shirt too many times. I need a new shirt.

Now you try: (Simple Past) He _____ a plaid pair of pants to the meeting.

Weave (base), wove (simple past), woven (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To interlace threads or yarn into cloth or a cloth product; 2. To make up something or contrive something *(as in: He wove an interesting story about his trip overseas.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The woman ***weaves*** a beautiful blanket from wool threads.

- (Simple Past) The island native ***wove*** a beautiful basket from palm leaves.

- (Past Participle) Eric has ***woven*** a belt from strips of leather.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The women _____ baskets for fruit and vegetables.

Weep (base), wept (simple past), wept (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To cry or she tears as an expression of emotion; 2. To leak slowly *(as in: Some water wept from pipe joint.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) The bride's maid always ***weeps*** during the wedding.

- (Simple Past) Ginger ***wept*** when she lost her cat.

- (Past Participle) Jennifer has ***wept*** with joy since learning that she was admitted to the university.

Now you try: (Past Participle, Present Perfect) The mother _____ _____ many times because of her misfortune.

Win (base), won (simple past), won (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To achieve success or victory through effort; 2. To achieve success through luck *(as in: I won the lottery!) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Our team ***wins*** a lot because we work hard.

- (Simple Past) My uncle Jimmy ***won*** the lottery last week.

- (Past Participle) That team has ***won*** four tournaments so far.

Now you try: (Simple Past) Shawn _____ a new car last week.

Wind (base), wound (simple past), wound (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To turn, for example a handle, in a serious of circular motions; 2. To wrap something around another object *(as in: He wound the string around the stick.);* 3. To proceed on a curving or twisting road, path or course *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) My father ***winds*** his old wristwatch every morning.

- (Simple Past) Elizabeth ***wound*** her yarn around the spool.

- (Past Participle) The child has ***wound*** up his toy and now he wants to play with it on the floor.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The little girl _____ her kite string onto a spool as the kite came to earth.

Withdraw (base), withdrew (simple past), withdrawn (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To take back, to remove; 2. To go back or retreat on a battlefield *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Before going shopping, I always ***withdraw*** money from the bank.

- (Simple Past) The commander ***withdrew*** his men from the battle.

- (Past Participle) Mr. and Mrs. Jones have ***withdrawn*** their money from the bank.

Now you try: (Simple Past) The soldiers _____ as the enemy advanced.

Wring (base), wrung (simple past), wrung (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. When you twist, squeeze or compress something (for example, cloth) usually to remove the liquid from it; 2. To squeeze or grasp your hands as in distress *(and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Whenever she finishes an exam, she ***wrings*** her hands worrying about her grade.

- (Simple Past) The woman ***wrung*** the water out of the towel.

- (Past Participle) We have ***wrung*** our hands enough worrying about the future.

Now you try: (Simple Past) After falling in the pool, Bobby went home and _____ his clothing and hung it up to dry.

Write (base), wrote (simple past), written (past participle):

Some common meanings: 1. To form letters or symbols for the purpose of communication; 2. To record on a computer storage device *(as in: When I saved my file the computer wrote it to the hard drive.) (and other meanings)*.

Examples:

- (Simple Present) Dana keeps a diary. She ***writes*** something in her diary every day.

- (Simple Past) The angry citizens ***wrote*** a letter to the government.

- (Past Participle) He has ***written*** two books since last year.

Now you try: (Simple Past) I _____ an email to my friend overseas.

Chapter 6 Review

Irregular verbs beginning with the letters T, U and W

Directions: If the verb is used correctly in the sentence check "Correct", if it is not used correctly check "Incorrect". If the sentence is then check the correct verb tense box: or <u>past</u> If the verb is "Incorrect," check the box next to the verb tense that should be used in the correct version of the sentence. The answers can be found in chapter 6, above.

1. The angry customer **<u>writed</u>** a letter to the president of the company. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

2. The woman **<u>wrung</u>** the water out of the wash cloth. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

3. My sister **<u>won</u>** the lottery last week. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

4. Elizabeth **<u>winds</u>** her yarn around the spool last night. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

5. Ginger **<u>wept</u>** when she lost her pet bird. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

6. The woman **wove** a hat from palm leaves. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

7. He **wore** a formal clothing for the party. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

8. On Saturday morning, he **woke** to the news that a typhoon was approaching his city. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

9. The speaker at the conference has **upset** everyone with his comments. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

10. The student **understanded** the lesson but still had a question for the teacher. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

11. After the picnic we **throwed** our garbage in the trash. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

12. Jeff has told has already **told** his friends about his new girlfriend. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

13. The secretary **teared** the paper from the pad. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

14. Adam has **teached** English to intermediate level English students for three years. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

15. The boy **took** an apple from the apple tree. __Correct __Incorrect __Present __Past __Past Participle

Part 3 - *English Articles a, an, and the*

How to use English articles correctly in every sentence

Part 3 - Quick-Find Menu

Part 3 Introduction

Part 3 A Note to Students

Chapter 1: Overview and Simplified Rules for Using ***an***, and ***the***

Chapter 2: English Articles ***a*** and ***an***

- Using ***a*** and ***an*** with singular, count nouns

Example: *The student has* ***a***

- Use ***a*** if the noun that follows begins with a consonant sound. Use ***an*** if the noun that follows begins with a vowel sound.

Example: *The child has* ***an*** *ice cream*

Example: *The student has* ***a*** *pencil.*

- Do **not** use ***a*** and ***an*** with plural nouns

Example *of what* ***not*** *to do:* ***I ate*** *an* ***apples for lunch. (wrong)***
Correct form: I ate apples for lunch.

- Using ***a*** or ***an*** to mean each or per

Example: *How much money do you make at your job? I make $50* ***an*** *hour.*

- Using ***a*** before few or little

Example: *We have* ***a*** *few minutes more to wait.*

Example *(using The train should be here in* ***just a few minutes.***

Chapter 2 English Articles Review

Chapter 3: Correct Use of the English Article ***the***

- Using ***the*** to specify a noun; Which book? ***The*** book in my hand!

Example: ***The*** *white truck was going too fast! (Which truck?* ***The*** *truck that was painted white.)*

- Using ***the*** before the names of colleges and universities

Example: *I have applied to* ***the*** *University of Hawaii.*

- Using to talk about countries

Example: *I will be traveling to* ***the*** *Kingdom of Tonga next month.*

- Using **the** with oceans, seas, rivers and deserts

Example: The *Pacific Ocean is the largest body of water in the world.*

- Don't use articles for single lakes, mountains or islands

Lake Tahoe is very big.

- Using **the** with the names of theaters, hotels, motels, buildings, and bridges

A good movie was playing at the Freeport theater.

- Don't use an article in front on the names of hospitals

Example: The *accident victims were taken to Saint Mary's Hospital.*

- Using **the** with the names of museums, zoos, institutes and companies

Example: The *Museum of Modern Art is a fascinating place.*

- Using **the** with family names

***Example: The** Morita family had a picnic last weekend.*

- Using **the** with emergency services and the military

***Example: The** fire department arrived 5 minutes after we called them.*

- More on using the with specific nouns

***Example: The** books on the table are English books. Which books? **The** books on the table.*

*I wash the windows every month. Which windows? **The** windows in my house.*

- Don't use **the** after there+be + non-specific nouns; for non-specific nouns use **a**

***Example** of **wrong** usage: There is **the** ball in the water. This is **not** correct unless you are talking about a very specific ball, like, for **example, the** ball you lost yesterday. Otherwise, the correct form is: There is **a** ball (which one, we don't know; only **a** ball) in the water.*

- Use **the** to refer to a noun that you've just referred to previously

***Example:** I bought a new computer last Wednesday. **The** computer works great!*

- Use the when it is obvious what you are talking about

Example: *My cup fell on* ***the*** *floor and broke.*

- Use **the** with a subject that is described by a following clause or phrase

Example: ***The*** *man in* ***the*** *red car is driving too fast.*

- Use **the** with superlatives

Example: *That is* ***the*** *most beautiful flower I've ever seen.*

- Don't use **the** when comparing things

Example: *That book is as good as this one.*

- Use **the** to refer to morning, afternoon and evening

Example: *I have to wake up early in* ***the*** *morning to go to*

- Using **the** with ordinal numbers and text

Example: ***The*** *second step is too complicated. I have to read the instructions again.*

See all rules and exceptions for using ordinal numbers and text with ***the***

- Using **the** when talking about classes of nouns

Example: The *snake can be a very dangerous animal. (Meaning the whole class of animals called snake.)*

- Using **the** referring to something that is well known

Example: *We use a telescope to observe* ***the*** *sun,* ***the*** *moon,* ***the*** *stars and every interesting thing in* ***the*** *sky.*

- Using **the** with ideas about nationality

Example: The *Italians are very good at making wine.*

- Using **the** with classes or groups of people

Example: The *poor do not have enough money to buy nice clothes.*

- Using **the** when referring to language and religion

Example: The *Pope is the head of the Catholic religion.*

- Using **the** with compass directions

***Example: The** sun is in the west*

- Use **the** when talking about periods of time in the past

***Example: The** Han Dynasty of China lasted over 400 years.*

- Using the with special names, titles, and epithets

***Example: The** Queen of England.*

- Use **the** to refer to bodily contact

***Example:** The bullet struck the man in **the** chest.*

- Using **the** with the word 'same'

***Example:** She was wearing **the** same color dress that I was wearing.*

- Use **the** to talk about certain medical diseases

***Example:** She couldn't go to school because she had **the** flu.*

Chapter 3 Articles Review

Chapter 4: When **NOT** to use articles

- **Don't** use ***a*** or ***an*** in front of **noncount nouns** like rice or water

Example: (WRONG) Would you give me a water?

- ***Don't*** use articles in front of road names

Example: *Please turn left on Smith Street and my house is on the right.*

- ***Don't*** use articles in front of abstract nouns

Example: *Happiness is easy when you live a simple life.*

- ***Don't*** use articles with plural nouns in 'general statement' sentences .

Example: *Dogs usually like to chase cats.*

- ***Don't*** use articles in front of the names of malls, parks or stadiums:

Example: *I love shopping at Ala Moana Shopping Center. (Shopping Center is part of the name of the mall so no article is needed)*

- ***Special*** cases where articles are ***not*** used in front of religions or languages

Example: *I speak French. I speak the French)*

- More on using articles in front of compass directions; when **not** to use ***the***

Example: *Go west* ***the*** *west) for about four miles and you will see the store on your right side.*

- More about using articles in front of the names of diseases; when **not** to use ***the***

Example: *The man was suffering from Tuberculosis.*

- ***Don't*** use articles in front of numbers or letters used for lists

Example: *Number 1 on the list is the most important.*

- ***Don't*** use articles in certain sentences beginning with the verb go

Example: *WRONG: I go to the bed every night at 10 o'clock.*

Example: *CORRECT: I go to bed every night at 10 o'clock.*

Chapter 4 Articles Review

Part 3 Introduction

Focus on Big Book Series

Making the difficult parts of learning English easy

Mastering English Articles: and ***the***

Mastering English Articles is a guide to the correct use of the English articles and in a wide variety of English sentence contexts. In addition to **complete and clear explanations** of the correct way to use these articles, there are many **examples** of correct usage and **self reviews** throughout the book.

Each chapter is followed by a practice and review section, which is designed to help the student reinforce the lessons from the previous chapter.

The student is encouraged to use this book in three ways:

As a quick reference resource. The book layout and design make it easy for the student to quickly search for words or phrases of interest.

As a learn-by-example text. Every step of the way there are many clear examples of usage, making it easy for the student to understand how English speakers use articles in everyday communication.

As a grammar text. This book was designed to help the student internalize the subject matter. The student is continuously challenged to generate, on his or her own, communication based on the lesson at hand. Reviews at the end of each chapter help the student to reinforce his or her new knowledge.

Part 3 - A note to students

Students are encouraged to use this text in groups, when possible. In a group, the student can practice using English articles by listening and speaking, as well as reading, which should make learning easier, faster and more fun.

Chapter 1 - *Overview; Some Simple Rules about Using English Articles*

RULE The English article ***the*** tells us which ones, which specific person, which exact place or thing the speaker is talking about. We can say apples are good to eat. This is a general statement Or, we can say, ***the*** apple is good to eat. apple is good to eat" refers to a specific apple that the speaker may be looking at, or both the speaker and the listener are familiar with. This is a statement about a specific apple.

RULE or Using the English article ***a*** to talk about things in general, or to make a general statement. We can say apples are good to eat. Or we can say ***an*** apple is good to eat. The meanings of these two sentences are approximately the same. We can say, generally speaking, ***an*** apple is good to eat, ***a*** banana is also good to eat and so is ***a*** tomato. Notice we say ***a*** before nouns beginning with a consonant sound and ***an*** before nouns with a vowel sound. So, ***an*** apple, but ***a*** banana.

RULE (definite articles): Sometimes the article ***the*** is called a definite article, meaning that it helps the listener understand that the speaker is talking about something specific or exactly which ones. [examples]

RULE (indefinite articles): Sometimes the article ***a*** (or is called the indefinite article, meaning that it helps the listener understand that the speaker is talking about something in general. [examples].

When you hear the term 'definite article' this refers to the English article And when you hear the term 'indefinite article' this refers to the English article ***a*** or

RULE Please do not use ***a*** or ***an*** with non-count (uncountable nouns) like rice, insurance, water, etc. See the chapter on when not to use English articles.

RULE (using articles with adjectives): Sometimes the English article ***a*** (or can help an adjective by describing something more precisely to the listener. For example: She is ***an*** interesting person. Here, the English article ***an*** gives the adjective interesting more precise meaning (notice the use of ***an*** before the vowel sound at the beginning of the word interesting). So, what kind of person is she? She is the kind of person (generally) who is interesting. There are many interesting people in the world, so, according to the speaker, she is among them. (Examples)

RULE (when NOT to use articles): Many times, articles are not needed in a sentence, but because some languages use articles where English doesn't, it is important to know when not to use them in English. In Chapter 4 we will explain and give examples of when an English speaker does not use articles. Please see Chapter 4 for more details about this.

Below, you will learn all about using English articles in many different kinds of English sentences – when to use them and when not to use them.

Chapter 2 - *English Articles* ***a*** *and* ***an***

Using a and an Correctly before Count Nouns and Vowel Sounds

In this section you will learn, in detail, all of the rules for using the English articles, ***a*** *and Read the rules for usage and the explanations. After each explanation there are examples to help reinforce the correct use of the article in common English sentences. After the example, you will have a chance to practice with the "now you try" section. If you have difficulty with the "now you try" quiz, review the examples again.*

English Articles a and an

Below, read the rules, explanations and examples for the correct usage of ***a*** *and*

As mentioned above, after the ***examples*** *are given for each verb, you have a chance to practice what you have learned. In the* ***now you try*** *sections, fill in the blank space with the article. The answer to the* ***now you try*** *section is found by carefully studying the examples given directly above* ***now you***

There is a review section at the end of this chapter. The answers to the review section are found by carefully studying this chapter; especially the examples given for each rule.

*Using **a** and **an** with **singular count nouns** (using **an** with vowel sounds and **a** with consonant sounds)*

Sometimes count nouns are called countable nouns.

Use ***a*** if the noun that follows begins with a ***consonant sound.***
Use ***an*** if the noun that follows begins with a ***vowel***

Examples:

- The student has ***a*** pencil. (countable noun, begins with a consonant)

- The child has ***an*** ice cream cone. (countable noun; you cannot say ice cream cone" because ice cream begins with a vowel sound)

- The doctor will be finished in ***an*** hour.
(Note: *hour* is pronounced like so you must use hour is a countable noun)

Now you try (fill in the blank): The boy ate _____ egg sandwich.

Don't *use **a** and **an** with **plural nouns***

Examples of what NOT to do:

- I ate ***an*** apples for lunch. (Correct form: I ate apples for lunch.)

- I bought ***a*** computers yesterday. (Correct form: I bought computers yesterday)

Now you try (fill in the blank): We ate _____bananas for breakfast.

Using ***a*** *or* ***an*** *to mean* ***each*** *or* ***per***

Use ***a*** or ***an*** to mean for *each* or (Remember: use ***a*** before consonant *sounds* and ***an*** before vowel

Examples:

- How much money do you make at your job? I make $50 ***an*** hour. (Remember: even though hour begins with "h," which is a consonant, hour is *pronounced* with an "o" sound, so we use ***an*** and do not use

- How many people arrive at the airport every day? Over 3,000 people ***a*** day arrive at the airport.

Now you try (fill in the blank): How many students take this exam every week? More than 40 students _____week take this exam.

RULE: *Using* ***a*** *before* ***few*** *or* ***little***

Use ***a*** before the words ***few*** or ***little*** to mean *some but not many or*

Example:

- How much longer do we have to wait before this train arrives? We have ***a*** few minutes more to wait.

(Note: use the word *only* or *just* + ***a*** + *few* or *little* to emphasize the meaning *not much* or *not many* in the sentence.)

More Examples:

- I'm really late. How much longer do we have to wait before this train arrives? The train should be here in only ***a*** few minutes. The train should be here in just ***a*** few minutes.

- Be patient just ***a*** little longer, the train should be here soon.

(Note: when you want to express *almost none* using the words *few* or then do **not** use an article.

More Examples:

- He is very hungry. He has had little to eat since yesterday. (Meaning: he has eaten almost nothing since yesterday.)

- He is very lonely; he has *few* friends. (Meaning: he has almost no friends.)

Now you try (fill in the blanks):

1. Jim has 50 cents. Jim has ___ little money.

2. Mary doesn't have a lot of friends. She has ___ few friends.

3.Where is the teacher? He should be here in just ___ few minutes.

4.Michaela has almost completed school. She has only __ few more classes.

Chapter 2 - Articles Review

Directions: Fill in the blanks with or Ø if you think the sentence is correct the way it is. Correct answers can be found by studying the examples in chapter 1, above.

1. The mechanic will be finished with the repair in _____hour.

2. The student has _____ pencil in his hand.

3. Abby is eating _____ ice cream cake.

4. That guy has a fast car. It goes 150 miles ____ hour.

5. Excuse me. How long do we have to wait for the bus? You've just got ___ few more minutes.

6. Is the train always this late? The guy at the ticket counter said the train should be arriving in just ___ few minutes; but that was ten minutes ago!

7. Oh, be patient and stop complaining! The train should be here in just ____ little while.

8. The homeless man was very hungry. He has had _____ little to eat.

9. Jenny is staying home again tonight. Almost no one likes her. She has ____ few friends, but they don't call her very often.

10. Jeremy bought ____ new car yesterday.

Chapter 3 - *Correct Use of the English Article* ***the***

In this section you will learn the rules for using the English article Listen to the rules for usage and an explanation. After each explanation there are examples to help reinforce the correct use of the article in common English sentences. After the examples are given for each article, you have a chance to practice what have learned. In the "Now you try" sections, fill in the blank space with the correct form of the word given in parenthesis ( ). The answer to the "now you try" section is found by carefully studying the examples given in this section.

Correct Use of the English Article Rules, Explanations and Examples for Using the English Article ***the***

General rule about using ***the*** *before adjectives describing nouns:*

Below, you will find some rules about using the article ***the*** that refer to nouns that are modified by an adjective. For example: *The red-haired girl*. generally, is used by English speakers to identify something unique (which is why it is sometimes called a ***definite*** An adjective placed before a noun also makes that noun special or unique. When ***the*** is placed before the adjective, then the noun is very uniquely defined. See example below.

Generally speaking, in English, is used in combination with an adjective to express specific, identified, and unique nouns.

Some examples (you will find many more specific examples in the rules below):

- The red haired girl brought her lunch to school today. (Which girl? The girl with the red hair.)

- The white truck was going too fast! (Which truck? The truck that was painted white.)

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *before the names of* ***colleges*** *and*

Use ***the*** when talking about ***colleges*** and ***universities*** that have the word ***of*** in their name. If a ***college*** or ***university*** does not have the word ***of*** in its name, then do not use an article before the name.

Examples:

- I have applied to ***the*** University of Hawaii

- Hawaii Loa College is a good school.

- My sister goes to ***the*** University of Florida

- Florida State University has a good football team. ***The*** Florida State University).

Now you try (fill in the blank):

1. _____ University of Iowa has many good students.

2. _____ Kent State University is very famous in U.S. History.

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *to talk about*

Use ***the*** when talking about ***countries*** that have the words united, union, kingdom, or republic in their name. If a country, city or state has the word ***of*** in its name, then use ***the*** before the name. Do not use ***the*** before the names of countries, states, or cities that do not have ***of*** in their name or the words or **republic** in their name.

Examples:

- I am studying English in ***the*** United States of America

- I will be traveling to ***the*** Kingdom of Tonga next month.

- My friend lives in Germany.

- Zurich has a good soccer team.

Now you try (fill in the blank): _____ Republic of China is very large.

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *with* ***rivers*** *and*

Use ***the*** with the names of and

Examples:

- ***The*** Pacific Ocean is the largest body of water in the world.

- ***The*** Red Sea passes through Egypt.

- ***The*** Mississippi River flows from the northern border of the United States to the southern border.

- ***The*** Mohave desert is one of the driest places on earth.

Now you try (fill in the blank): _____ Sahara desert is a vast desert of northern Africa.

RULE: *Don't use articles for* ***single mountains*** *or*

Do not use an article for the names of single lakes, mountains, or islands. Use ***the*** when talking about ***plural mountains*** or

Examples:

- Lake Tahoe is very big.

- ***The*** Great border on the north-central part of the United States and south-central region of Canada.

- Mount Shasta is a great place to visit.

- On Maui you will find Haleakala Mountain.

- ***The*** Himalayas are in Tibet.

- ***The*** Hawaiian Islands are beautiful.

Now you try (fill in the blank): _____ Lake Huron is in the Great Lakes region.

RULE: *Using **the** with the names of and*

Use ***the*** when talking about the names of and

Examples:

- A good movie was playing at ***the*** Freeport theater.

- We stayed at ***the*** Marriott hotel in Utah.

- ***The*** Empire State Building in New York City used to be the tallest building in the world.

- Driving across ***the*** Golden Gate Bridge is exciting.

Now you try (fill in the blank): My cousin stayed at _____ Sagebrush Inn in Miami.

RULE: *Don't use an article in front on the names of*

Don't use an article in front of the names of

Examples:

- The accident victims were taken to Saint Mary's Hospital.

- I went to Queens Hospital for a checkup.

Now you try (fill in the blank): The ambulance took the patient to _____ Mount Sinai Hospital .

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *with the names of* ***institutes*** *and*

RULE: Use the when talking about the names of and ***companies*** if the word company or corporation appears in the company name.

Examples:

- ***The*** Museum of Modern Art is a fascinating place.

There are many interesting exhibits in ***the*** Bronx Zoo.

- ***The*** Massachusetts Institute of Technology is a good place to study engineering.

- ***The*** Microsoft Corporation makes the Windows operating system.

- Microsoft makes Word for Windows.

Now you try (fill in the blank): At _____ Institute of Higher Health you can learn about better ways to take care of your health.

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *with* ***family***

Use ***the*** when talking about ***family names*** that are followed by a noun or when talking about all the family members by using the last name in the plural form.

Examples:

- ***The*** Morita family had a picnic last weekend.

- ***The*** Smith clan is very close. (The word *clan* is used to mean *family* in casual English)

- ***The*** Schmids have gone to Las Vegas together for a vacation.

Now you try (fill in the blank): _____ Jones family will be coming for dinner.

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *with* ***emergency services*** *and the*

Use ***the*** when talking about fire, police and emergency services, and military institutions, such as the navy, the army, the air force, the marines, the military.

Examples:

- ***The*** fire department arrived 5 minutes after we called them.

- ***The*** police could not catch the criminal.

- My brother just joined ***the*** navy.

- ***The*** military has taken over the government in the small country.

Now you try (fill in the blank): _____ army needs a lot of money to run its operations.

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *with* ***specific***

Use ***the*** with nouns that you can identify specifically.

Examples:

- ***The*** books on the table are English books. Which books? ***The*** books on the table.

- I bought ***the*** computers yesterday. Which computers? ***The*** computers on my desk.

- I bought ***the*** apples this morning. Which apples? ***The*** apples in the refrigerator.

Important Note: You **cannot** use ***the*** in front of a noun that you cannot specifically identify.

For example:

If Hiro says, "I buy ***the*** apples every week," then we think that Hiro must be pointing to some apples as he is speaking because ***the*** tells us that Hiro knows ***exactly*** which apples he's talking about. If it is true that Hiro is buying ***the*** apples every week then ***he must be buying the very same exact apples week after*** (Huh? Is that possible?)

If you want to tell someone that you buy apples every week, just say: **I buy apples every** The person will know that when you go shopping you usually buy some apples.

When you want to talk about a ***plural noun*** in general, then don't use Just say, I buy apples every week. (Meaning: generally, I buy apples at least once a week.)

Other examples:

- I wash ***the*** windows every month. Which windows? ***The*** windows in my house.

- I wash windows for a cleaning company. Which windows? I don't know exactly which ones until my boss gives me instructions.

Now you try (fill in the blank):

1. The cleaning lady washes _____windows when she comes. (Specific windows)

2. Try another (fill in the blank): I bought _____groceries every time I went to that food store.

RULE: *Don't use* ***the*** *after* ***there+be + non-specific***

Don't use **the** after there + be + a non-specific ***is*** + noun or ***there are*** + noun).

For example, do NOT say:

- There is ***the*** ball in the water. This is **not** correct unless you are talking about a very specific ball, like, for example the ball you lost yesterday. Otherwise, the correct form is: There is ***a*** ball in the water.

Other examples (correct forms):

- There is a ball in the lake.

- There is a pen on the desk.

- There are stars in the sky.

Now you try (fill in the blank): There is _____ duck on the lake.

RULE: *Use* ***the*** *to refer to a noun that* ***you've just referred to*** *previously:*

Use ***the*** when you have already talked about a noun in a previous sentence.

Examples:

- I bought a new computer last Wednesday. ***The*** computer works great!

- I bought some apples yesterday. ***The*** apples were delicious.

Now you try (fill in the blank):

1. (In the following sentence we don't know exactly ***which*** mp3 player she bought. Which article do we use here?) My sister bought _____ new mp3 player last night.

2. (In this next sentence, the speaker refers to the mp3 player that he or she ***just mentioned*** Which article do we use?) Unfortunately, _____mp3 player has a problem!

RULE: *Use **the** when it is **obvious** what you are talking about:*

Use ***the*** when it is very ***obvious*** what you are talking about.

Examples:

- My cup fell on ***the*** floor and broke.

- Rain fell from ***the*** sky.

- Please don't smoke inside ***the*** building!

Now you try (fill in the blank): My watch fell to _____floor but, nothing was damaged.

RULE: *Use **the** with a subject that is described by a **following***

Use ***the*** when the subject noun is identified by a subsequent clause describing the subject. (For example: ***The*** woman ***in the back of the room*** is my boss.).

Examples:

- ***The*** man ***in the red car*** is driving too fast.

- ***The*** dress ***on the shelf*** is on sale.

- The blouse ***that my mother gave me*** is stained.

- The man ***who gave me the money*** has disappeared.

Important note: Make sure that the adjective clause identifies the noun and makes it specific or unique. Here is an **example** where the adjective clause does not make the noun specific:

Example

- We went shopping yesterday to try to find ***a*** computer that would help us with our English studies. (In this case, we haven't found a ***specific*** computer yet, we are still looking, so we use a, meaning one of many possibilities, to identify the computer.)

Now you try (fill in the blank): _____ring that my friend gave me doesn't fit.

RULE: *Use* ***the*** *with superlatives:*

Use ***the*** when you want to ***express how good or bad something is*** (superlatives), but do **NOT** use ***the*** when comparing one thing to another.

Examples:

- That is ***the*** most beautiful flower I've ever seen.

- This is ***the*** worst class I've taken.

Now you try (fill in the blank): That is ____ most incredible dive I've ever seen.

RULE: *Don't use* ***the*** *when* ***comparing*** *things:*

Do not use ***the*** when ***comparing*** things.*

Examples:

- That book is as good as this one.

- That Lamborghini is just as fast as this Ferrari.

- This brand of coffee is better than that brand.

When you are comparing two sets of things in a single sentence (a double comparative) use

Example:

- The harder the exam, the more I like it. (This is a double comparative).

RULE: *Use* ***the*** *to refer to* ***afternoon*** *and*

Use *the* with *afternoon* and *evening* but not with

Examples:

- I have to wake up early in ***the*** morning to go to work.

- We have lunch in ***the*** afternoon.

- The stars come out in ***the*** evening.

Now you try (fill in the blank): We usually meet in _____ morning.

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *with* ***ordinal numbers*** *and text:*

Use ***the*** when using ***ordinal numbers*** etc.) and words, and words that rank, for example, next and last.

Examples:

- This is ***the*** first time I got an A on an exam.

- ***The*** second step is too complicated. I have to read the instructions again.

But, do not use ***the*** when using ordinal numbers or words when giving commands or emphasizing directions.

Example:

- First, read the summary. Second, write down your comments.

Do not use ***the*** when using ordinal numbers or words when you talk about specific periods of time

Example:

- We are going to grandmother's house next spring. My brother came to visit last Christmas.

- Mom came last year so I think we have to visit her this year. (Specific period of time, no

Do not use ***the*** when using ordinal numbers or words that refer to prizes

Example:

- Congratulations, you won first prize!).

- My brother got second prize in the competition. (Prize, no

Now you try (fill in the blank):

1. _____ first step is easy.

2. My sister won ____ second prize in the cooking contest.

3. Students, I would like you to do the following: ___ first, read the lesson; ____ second, do your homework.

4. ____ summer is the best time of year!

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *when talking about* ***classes of***

Use ***the*** when you are generalizing about ***classes*** of animals elephant is the largest animal in the animal kingdom.), about musical instruments violin has a long history.), or about inventions computer is changing the way we do work.). But, use or ***an*** (interchangeably) when talking in general about the effect or significance of something.

Examples:

- ***The*** snake can be a very dangerous animal. (Meaning the whole class of animals called snake)

- ***A*** snake can be a very dangerous animal (Meaning any individual snake)

- ***The*** guitar was first created by Gaetano Vinaccia in 1779 in Naples, Italy. (Meaning the whole class of instruments called guitar)

- ***A*** guitar can make a very beautiful sound. (Meaning any individual guitar)

- ***The*** computer has changed the way we communicate. (Meaning the whole class of inventions called computer)

- ***A*** computer can be used to send email. (Meaning any particular computer)

Now you try (fill in the blank): _____violin makes a very beautiful sound. (any)

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *referring to* ***something that is well***

Use ***the*** when the noun in the sentence is ***well known*** as being the only one of its kind.

Example:

- We use a telescope to observe ***the sun, the moon, the stars*** and every interesting thing in ***the sky.***

More examples:

- ***The*** water in the ocean is very salty.

- ***The*** air is very clean and sweet smelling.

Now you try (fill in the _____ water is dirty.

RULE: *Using **the** with ideas about nationality:*

Use ***the*** when you want to express ideas about a ***nationality*** (group of people from a given country) .

Examples:

- ***The*** Italians are very good at making wine.

- ***The*** Americans like fast food.

- ***The*** Japanese produce many fine video products.

- ***The*** Germans like good beer.

Now you try (fill in the blank): _____Italians love their cheeses and sauces.

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *with* ***classes*** *or groups of people:*

Use ***the*** when you want to express ideas about a ***group*** or ***class*** of people that have some characteristic.

Examples:

- ***The*** poor do not have enough money to buy nice clothes.

- There is a special program for ***the*** deaf to help them to learn sign language.

- The nurse hurried to the accident to help ***the*** injured.

Now you try (fill in the _____refugees do not have a place to live.

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *when referring to* **language** *and*

Use ***the*** only when the word **language** appears after a language (example: ***the*** French language), and only when the word **religion** appears after a religion (example: ***the*** Hindu religion).

Examples:

- The Pope is the head of ***the*** Catholic religion.

- ***The*** Chinese language has many dialects.

Now you try (fill in the blank): _____ Chinese language is a tonal language.

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *with*

Use ***the*** before **directions** like north, south, east and west, if they follow prepositions such as in, to, from, at, on, etc.

Examples:

- The sun is in ***the*** west.

- All of the good restaurants are on ***the*** east side of the city.

- The train should be approaching from ***the*** north.

Now you try (fill in the blank): The storm will approach from _____ south.

RULE: *Use **the** when talking about **periods of time** in the past:*

Use ***the*** when you want to talk about large ***periods of time*** in the past.

Examples:

- ***The*** Han Dynasty of China lasted over 400 years.

- Dinosaurs ruled the earth during ***the*** Triassic period.

Now you try (fill in the blank): _____ Pleistocene period lasted over 1.7 million years.

RULE: *Using **the** with special names, titles, and epithets:*

Use ***the*** when you want to talk about **special titles of** and

Examples:

- ***The*** Queen of England.

- Catherine ***the*** great.

- Phillip ***the*** talking robot was a popular character in the movie.

Now you try (fill in the blank): Henry _____ eighth.

RULE: *Use* ***the*** *to refer to* **parts of the**

Use ***the*** when you want to refer to some **place on your body** that was struck or touched by something outside of yourself.

Examples:

- The bullet struck the man in ***the*** chest.

- She tapped the girl on ***the*** shoulder.

- He hit the boy on ***the*** head.

Now you try (fill in the blank): The doctor gave the boy a flu shot in _____ arm.

RULE: *Using* ***the*** *with the word*

Use ***the*** right before the word

Examples:

- She was wearing ***the*** same color dress that I was wearing.

- I order ***the*** same kind of food every time I go to that restaurant. A hamburger and French fries.

Now you (fill in the blank): The twins were wearing _____ same color dresses.

RULE: *Use* ***the*** *to talk about* ***certain medical***

Use ***the*** when talking about ***the*** flu, ***the*** measles, ***the*** Chicken Pox or ***the*** mumps, but ***don't*** use ***the*** to refer to any other disease.

Examples:

- She couldn't go to school because she had ***the*** measles.

- The ambulance took the girl to the hospital because she had appendicitis. not needed in front of appendicitis.)

Now you try (fill in the blank): His aunt went to the doctor because she had _____ flu.

Chapter 3 Articles Review

Directions: Fill in the blanks with a, an, the, or Ø if you think the sentence is correct the way it is. Correct answers can be found in chapter 2, above.

1. ____ Nassau Community College has a good football team.

2. Allan goes to _____ University of Hawaii.

3. Terry orders ___ same smoothie every time she goes to the smoothie shop.

4. The ambulance took _____ little girl to the hospital because of her serious illness.

5. _____ two women were wearing ____ same style dress at the party.

6. The sun sets in _____ west.

7. The bus will be approaching from _____ east.

8. ___ water in ____ ocean is full of life.

9. Ivan _____ Terrible was a czar in Russian history.

10. _____ Chinese produce many different kinds of products.

11. _____ computers have changed the way we communicate in the world today.

12. The young soldiers have to wake up early in _____ morning.

13. _____ poor often do not have enough money to buy food for their children.

14. Okay students, here are the instructions for the exam: ____ first, write your name on the top of _____ first page.

15. _____ Pope is ____ head of ____ Catholic religion.

16. _____ guitars can make a very beautiful sound.

17. Mastering ____ piano requires a lot of practice.

18. My friend got ____ second prize in the cooking competition.

19. Betsy washes ____ floors in her house every month.

20. The baby's cup fell on ____ floor and broke.

21. ____ Hawaiian Islands are located in ____ Pacific Ocean.

22. We generally have tea in ____ afternoon.

23. Alice bought ____ fruit in the refrigerator this morning.

24. Alice often goes shopping for ____ fruit.

25. There is ____ ball in the water.

26. ____ rain fell from ____ sky.

27. My aunt visited us ____ last year, so I think we have to visit her this year.

28. ____ Browns have gone to California together for a ski vacation.

29. That is ____ fastest car I've ever ridden in!

30. The doctor tapped ____ boy on ____ knee.

Chapter 4 - *When **NOT** to use articles*

*In this section you will learn the rules for when you do NOT use articles. Read the rules for **NOT** using articles and an explanation why. After each explanation there are examples to reinforce your understanding.*

When NOT to use articles

Rules, explanations and examples for **NOT** using English articles in sentences

RULE: Don't use the article ***a*** or ***an*** in front of ***non-count (uncountable) nouns*** *like rice, water, or ice:*

Don't use ***a*** or ***an*** in front of non-count nouns like water, insurance, etc.

Examples:

- WRONG: Would you give me a water?

CORRECT: Would you give me some water. OR Would you give me a glass of water?

- WRONG: I would like a rice, please.

CORRECT: I would like some rice, please.

Now you try (fill in the blank): I love cake. Can I have _____ piece of cake?

RULE: Don't use articles in front of ***road***

Don't use articles in front of the name of a etc.

Examples:

- Please turn left on ***Smith Street*** and my house is on the right. (NOT: Please turn left on *the* Smith Street . . .)

- We traveled down ***Ala Moana Boulevard*** until we saw the mall.

Now you try (fill in the blank): We drove to _____ Main Street and then turned left onto _____ Elm Street.

RULE: Don't use articles in front of ***abstract***

Don't use articles in front of ***abstract nouns*** like etc.

Examples:

- Happiness is easy when you live a simple life.

- The newlywed couple was filled with joy.

- Everyone wants peace in the world. (Peace is the abstract noun in this sentence.)

Now you try (fill in the blank): People like to have _____ fun in life.

RULE: Don't use articles with ***plural nouns*** in 'general statement' sentences:

Don't use articles in front of ***plural nouns*** in sentences that are making general statements.

Examples:

- Dogs usually like to chase cats.

- Vegetables are good for your health.

- Hot dogs are made with beef, chicken, or pork.

Now you try (fill in the blank): _____ fish is good to eat and good for your health.

RULE: Don't use articles in front of the ***names of parks or***

RULE: Don't use articles in front of the ***names of parks*** or ***stadiums*** unless the name usually has another identifying noun (like ***Shopping*** or as part of the name.

Examples:

- I love shopping at Ala Moana Shopping Center. (Shopping Center is part of the name of the mall so no article is needed)

- I love shopping at ***the*** Ala Moana shopping center. (In this case, shopping center is not part of the name, but identifies Ala Moana as being a shopping center and so we use ***the*** in front of the name.)

- We watched the football game at ***the*** stadium.

- We watched the football game at Aloha Stadium.

- The children played in Central Park.

Now you try (fill in the blank): We often shop at _____Town Square shopping center.

RULE: Special cases where articles are not used in front of ***religions*** or ***languages:***

Don't use articles in front of the names of ***religions*** or ***languages*** unless they have been identified by another word in the sentence.

Examples:

- I speak French.

- I speak ***the*** French language. (Which language? ***The*** French language.)

- Hinduism is practiced by many people in India and Indonesia.

- The Hindu religion is practiced by many people in India and Indonesia. (Which religion? ***The*** Hindu religion.)

Now you try (fill in the blank): Allison speaks ____ Chinese.

RULE: More on using articles in front of ***compass***

Don't use articles in front of ***directions like*** or ***west*** especially when the direction follows an action verb like walk, run, go, head, sail, drive, etc.

Examples:

- Go west for about four miles and you will see the store on your right side.

- The ship sailed west for two weeks before reaching Japan.

- We drove north until we arrived in Canada.

Now you try (fill in the blank): The soldiers hiked _____ west for about ten miles and then rested.

RULE: More about using articles in front of the ***names of***

Don't use articles in front of the ***names of diseases*** except for *the the the chicken* and *the*

Examples:

- The man was suffering from Tuberculosis.

- The woman had diabetes.

Now you try: A dangerous bone condition is _____ Osteoporosis.

RULE: Using articles in front of ***numbers or letters used for***

Don't use articles in front of ***numbers or letters used for***

Examples:

- Number 1 on the list is the most important.

- Sorry, but I don't understand letter A. (Meaning: I don't understand the question or information following letter A.)

- Excuse me, could you please read number 7 again?

Now you try (fill in the blank): We are _____ number 8 on the waiting list.

RULE: Using articles in certain sentences beginning with the phrasal verb ***go***

General rule: don't use ***the*** in front of a noun that doesn't refer to something specific or definite.

'I go to school every day,' is an **example** of a frequently used sentence in English that uses to indicate to the listener what the speaker ***generally*** does. English learners frequently make the mistake of speaking or writing ***the*** in front of the noun in these kinds of sentences. **Don't** use articles in front of the nouns in sentences containing, for ***go to go to go to go to go to*** etc. **Not: *go to*** the church, ***go to*** the school, etc.

Examples:

- CORRECT: I **go to** bed every night at 10 o'clock. (Which bed? We don't know and it doesn't matter. The speaker is trying to say only that they go to sleep at that hour)

- I **go to** ***the*** bed every night at 10 o'clock.

- CORRECT: We **go to** school to learn English.

- WRONG: We **go to** ***the*** school to learn English.

- CORRECT: The two ladies **go to** church every Sunday.

- WRONG: The two ladies **go to** ***the*** church every Sunday.

Now you try (fill in the blank): We usually go to _____ dinner around 8 o'clock.

Chapter 4 Review

Directions: Fill in the blanks with a, an, the, or Ø if you think the sentence is correct the way it is. Correct answers can be found in chapter 3, above.

1. My whole family goes to ____ bed at 11pm every night.

2. The two women were suffering from _____ osteoporosis.

3. Go ____ south to Baker Street and then turn left.

4. I am going to _____ New York tomorrow morning.

5. Do you speak ____ Spanish?

6. ____ Buddhist religion is practiced by many people.

7. _____ vegetables are good for you.

8. Fred drove down ____ Howard Avenue looking for a bakery.

9. ____ happiness comes from a simple life.

10. ____ Buddhist monks are praying for ____ peace.

11. We watched the baseball game at ____ Shea Stadium.

12. _____ cats usually don't like dogs.

13. The young couple was filled with ____ joy.