

2. A preposition may be omitted or a preposition may be used when it is not necessary.

Example: Despite ^A of its isolation in the Sunda Strait ^B between Java and ^C Sumatra, over 36,000 people died in the tidal waves ^D following the explosion of Krakatoa.

The correct answer is (A); the preposition *of* should not be used in this phrase (*of* is used in the phrase *in spite of*, but *despite*, which has the same meaning, does not take a preposition).

Example: According experts ^A 60,000 cubic feet of earth ^B was thrown into the air in the explosion of Mount St. Helens. ^C ^D

The best answer is (A); the preposition *to* has been omitted from the phrase *according to*.

Exercises on Prepositions

Identify one of the underlined words or phrases (A), (B), (C), or (D) that should be rewritten or corrected.

- The rocky island of Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay ^A was discovered by the ^B Spanish in 1769 ^C and named by ^D its large pelican colony.
- Bacteria are responsible of ^A many of the textures ^B and flavors in our food ^C and are particularly important in ^D milk products.
- Art Nouveau, a style that was in fashion ^A in the 1890s ^B, was based of ^C long curving lines inspired by ^D climbing plants.
- The brain is made up of ^A billions of neurons ^B that differ with ^C each other greatly in size and shape. ^D
- Wood, the hardened material from which ^A trees are composed, ^B is made up of millions ^C of tiny tubes of fibers packed together. ^D

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