

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

6. Animals that live in areas that are covered in snow in winter change the color of their coat according the seasons.
A B C D
7. The need for vitamins of our diet was discovered by the Dutch doctor Christiaan Eijkman in 1896.
A B C D
8. Many of the satellites of space carry telescopes and other instruments used in astronomy to look at the stars.
A B C D
9. Homes that have cable television get their programs from a local television station through a cable connected with the set.
A B C D
10. Henry David Thoreau stressed the importance in individuality and of living in harmony with nature.
A B C D
11. The hormone insulin controls by the amount of sugar in the blood, which provides energy for the body.
A B C D
12. Frogs get much of their oxygen by means blood capillaries in the surface of the skin.
A B C D