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

Example: Despite of (A) its isolation in the Sunda Strait (B) between Java (C) and 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 (C) in the explosion of Mount St. Helens (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.

1. The rocky island of Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay (A) was discovered by (B) the Spanish in 1769 (C) and named by (D) its large pelican colony.

2. Bacteria are responsible of (A) many of the textures (B) and flavors in our food (C) and are particularly important in (D) milk products.

3. 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.

4. The brain is made up of (A) billions of neurons (B) that differ with (C) each other greatly in size and shape (D).

5. Wood, the hardened material from which (A) trees are composed (B), is made up of millions (C) of tiny tubes of fibers (D) packed together.

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6. Animals that live in areas (A) that are covered in (B) snow in winter (C) change the color of their coat according (D) the seasons.

7. The need for vitamins (A) of our diet (B) was discovered by (C) the Dutch doctor Christiaan Eijkman in 1896 (D).

8. Many of the satellites (A) of space (B) carry telescopes and other instruments used in astronomy (C) to look at the stars (D).

9. Homes that have cable television get their programs (A) from a local television station (B) through a cable (C) connected with (D) the set.

10. Henry David Thoreau stressed the importance in (A) individuality and of living (B) in harmony (C) with nature (D).

11. The hormone insulin controls by (A) the amount of sugar (B) in the blood, (C) which provides energy (D) for the body.

12. Frogs get much of their (A) oxygen by means blood (B) capillaries in the surface (C) of the skin (D).

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