

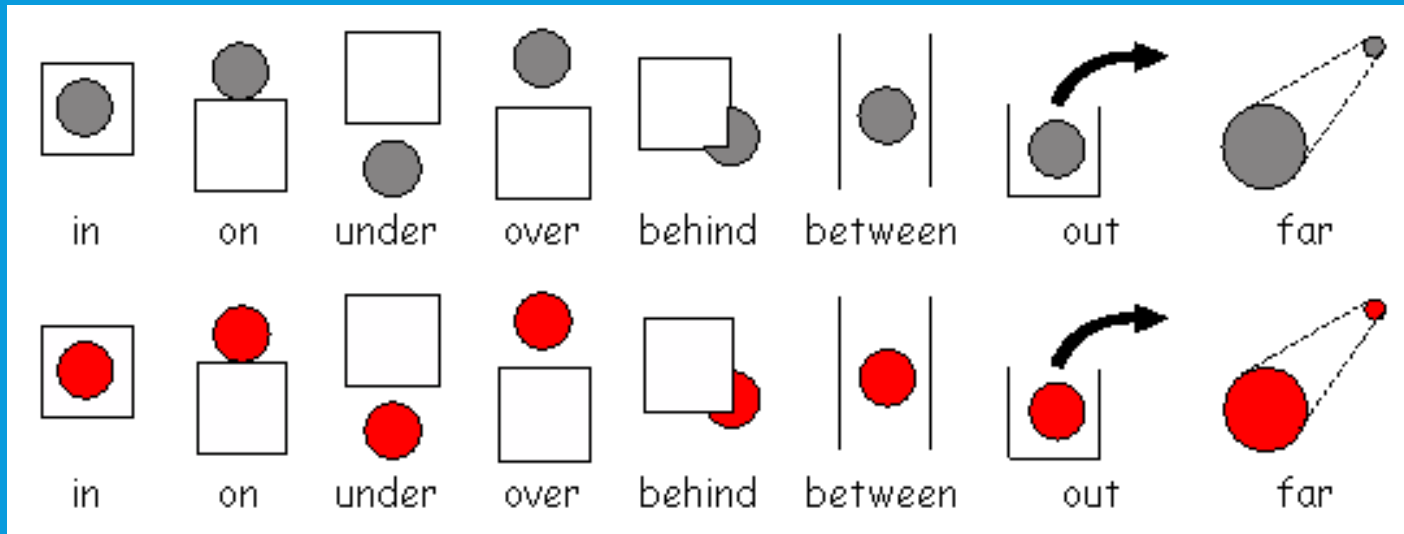
**EDITING FOR BREVITY:
CLEANING UP
PREPOSITION CLUTTER**

DISCUSS: ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

- What are prepositions?
- Name as many as you can.
- Why are they an issue in student writing?

IDENTIFYING PREPOSITIONS

- **Definition:** A preposition is a word used to link a noun to a sentence, and in doing so, relates the noun to either another noun or a verb.



COMMON PREPOSITIONS

- Near
- About
- Against
- To
- With
- Next
- Inside
- Because
- During
- Like
- Until
- Across
- Above
- Toward
- Outside



A word cloud of common prepositions in various colors and sizes. The words are: in, from, for, on, of, under, by, at, with, and over. The words are arranged in a cluster, with 'in' and 'from' being the largest, and 'over' being the smallest.

WHY YOU SHOULD AVOID PREPOSITION OVERUSE:

- Ruins your style
- Obscures your genius
- Creates wordy,
confusing sentences

REAL-LIFE APPLICATION: EDITING FOR BRVITY

- Revise your thesis statements so they are direct and concise
- Edit sentences for brevity to hit an assignment's maximum word count

HOW MANY ARE TOO MANY?

- No easy rule—the real test is in the reading
- If your sentences contain only a few verbs, especially verbs in the passive voice, and many prepositions, your essay is probably wordy and confusing

COMMON PREPOSITION AND PASSIVE VOICE ERRORS: DISCUSS IN YOUR GROUPS

- Identify *prepositions* and *passive voice*
- *Revise for brevity and specificity*
- Blood imagery was used by the author to show the guilt of Macbeth.
- In the beginning of the first act of the play the blood of Duncan was not yet spilled.

COMMON PREPOSITION ERRORS: ANSWERS FROM DISCUSSION

- Identify *prepositions* and *passive voice*
- *Revise for brevity and specificity*
- Blood imagery was used **by** the author **to** show the guilt **of** Macbeth.
- **In** the beginning **of** the first act **of** the play the blood **of** Duncan **was** not yet spilled.

COMMON PREPOSITION ERRORS: ANSWERS FROM DISCUSSION

- Blood imagery **was used by** the author to show the guilt **of** Macbeth.
 - (13 words)
- Shakespeare uses blood imagery, symbolizing Macbeth's guilt.
 - (7 words)

COMMON PREPOSITION ERRORS: ANSWERS FROM DISCUSSION

- **In** the beginning **of** the first act **of** the play the blood **of** Duncan **was** not yet spilled.
 - (17 words)
- Initially, Duncan lives.
- (3 words)

TODAY'S OBJECTIVE:

Make your writing clearer and more interesting by eliminating unnecessary prepositional phrases.

IDENTIFY THE PREPOSITIONS & PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

- Whitman guides the reader to a recognition and appreciation of his perception of the beauty in death through the internal revelations experienced by the narrator.

IDENTIFY THE PREPOSITIONS

- Whitman guides the reader to a recognition and appreciation of his perception of the beauty in death through the internal revelations experienced by the narrator.

SOLUTION: CONVERT TO ADVERBS

The writer's novels were of critical acclaim.

The writer's novels were critically acclaimed.

His actions were under close control.

His actions were closely controlled.

John was the victim of a brutal attack.

John was brutally attacked.

Janet was under the mistaken assumption that she was not liked.

Janet mistakenly assumed that she was not liked.

SOLUTION: CONVERT TO ADJECTIVES

It is the nature of humans to admire beauty.

It is human nature to admire beauty.

The response of the audience was silence.

The audience's response was silence.

The response of the class to the teacher's joke was many groans.

The class's response to the teacher's joke was many groans.

SOLUTION: WRITE IN THE ACTIVE VOICE.

The exam scores were tabulated by the teacher.

The teacher tabulated the exam scores.

The baseball card was purchased by the collector.

The collector purchased the baseball card.

His success was resented by his teammates.

His teammates resented his success.

The grounds were observed by means of hidden cameras.

Hidden cameras observed the grounds.

MORE HELP WITH PREPOSITIONS

- Purdue OWL:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/594/01/>
- The Guide to Grammar and Writing sponsored by the Capital Community College Foundation:
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/concise.htm>
- University of Ottawa:
<http://www.arts.uottawa.ca/writcent/hypergrammar/preposit.html>