

# Grammar & Writing

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## **Writing Prompt: Animals Could Talk**

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If you are in the "Grading by Mailing" program, finish your essay as instructed. Tear the page off and mail it in with the self-addressed envelope. In a week, you will receive your graded essay with comments and suggestions by a certified professional.

Your essay must be written on the lines provided on your answer sheet -- you will receive no other paper on which to write. You will have enough space if you write on every line, avoid wide margins, and keep your handwriting to a reasonable size. Remember that people who are not familiar with your handwriting will read what you write. Try to write or print so that what you are writing is legible to those readers.

You have twenty-five minutes to write an essay on the topic assigned below. DO NOT WRITE ON ANOTHER TOPIC. AN OFF-TOPIC ESSAY WILL RECEIVE A SCORE OF ZERO.

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

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*What would happen if one morning everyone woke up and found out that their pets could talk? Imagine what would happen if your pet could talk. Think about the things that your pet would like or dislike about its life, and the things that would be important to your pet! Write a story about the day you spent with your talking pet. Remember to use vivid verbs and interesting adjectives in your story.*

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Write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your choice or position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.





## ***Prepositions of Direction: To, On (to), In (to)***

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Whether or not there are any intervening determiners or adjectives, prepositions are almost always followed by a noun. In fact, this is so typical of prepositions that if they are not followed by a noun, we call them “stranded” prepositions:

### **Preposition**

- John talked *about* the new film.

### **Stranded Preposition**

- This is the film John talked *about*.

Prepositions are invariable in their form, that is, they do not take any inflections.

To, into, and onto correspond respectively to the prepositions of location at, in, and on. Each pair can be defined by the same spatial relations of point, line/surface, or area/volume. To learn more about the spatial relationships expressed by these pairs of prepositions, read the first section of “Prepositions of Location: At, On, and In” before you start reading this handout.

The basic preposition of a direction is “to.”

TO: signifies orientation toward a goal

When the goal is physical, such as a destination, “to” implies movement in the direction of the goal.

- Sayed returned to his apartment.

When the goal is not a physical place, for instance, an action, “to” marks a verb; it is attached as an infinitive and expresses purpose. The preposition may occur alone or in the phrase in order.

- Li Ling washed her dog (in order) to rid it of fleas.

The two uses can also occur together in a single sentence:

- Sayed returned to school to get his books.

The other two prepositions of direction are compounds formed by adding “to” to the corresponding prepositions of location. The preposition of location determines the meaning of the preposition of direction.

- ON + TO = onto: signifies movement toward a surface

- IN + TO = into: signifies movement toward the interior of a volume

(“To” is part of the directional preposition toward, and the two mean about the same thing.)

3. With many verbs of motion, “on” and “in” have a directional meaning and can be used along with “onto” and “into”.

- Tai-shing jumped in/into the pool.
- Porfirio fell on/onto the floor.
- The crab washed up on/onto the shore.

To the extent that these pairs do differ, the compound preposition conveys the completion of an action, while the simple preposition points to the position of the subject as a result of that action. This distinction helps us understand how directional and locational prepositions are related: they stand in the relationship of cause and effect.

Completion of an Action	Position of Subject
Jean fell on(to) the floor.	Jean is on the floor.
Susumu dived in(to) the water.	Susumu is in the water.

The purpose of this exercise is to test your knowledge on the uses of in, on and at. Therefore all the blanks to all the questions will be “in” “on” or “at”.

1. It gets very cold \_\_\_\_ winter.
  
2. Betty doesn't have a job \_\_\_\_ the moment.
  
3. The telephone and the doorbell rang \_\_\_\_ the same time.
  
4. He flew from Japan. He's probably \_\_\_\_ Perth now.
  
5. Would you like to go out to dinner \_\_\_\_ Friday night?
  
6. She was tired. She's \_\_\_\_ bed now.

7. Goodbye! I'll see you \_\_\_\_\_ the morning.
8. Were you \_\_\_\_\_ Tom's party last night?
9. I'll see you \_\_\_\_\_ two weeks time.
10. She was born \_\_\_\_\_ 1961.
11. The doctor will see you \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 A.M.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ the age of ten I wanted to be a firefighter.
13. My wife gave me a wonderful present \_\_\_\_\_ my birthday.
14. The coffee is \_\_\_\_\_ the shelf.
15. My pen is \_\_\_\_\_ my pencil case.
16. He's gone to work. He's probably \_\_\_\_\_ work now.

17. He lives \_\_\_\_ Australia.
18. \_\_\_\_ my opinion you should buy the blue shirt.
19. \_\_\_\_ second thought, the green shirt is nicer.
20. I'll see you \_\_\_\_ Monday.
21. I'll be taking my holiday \_\_\_\_ Christmas this year.
22. Buy some bread and milk \_\_\_\_ your way home.
23. What will you be doing \_\_\_\_ New Year's Eve?
24. \_\_\_\_ the end of a course students usually have a party.
25. The flowers \_\_\_\_ your garden are very beautiful.
26. There were many cars \_\_\_\_ the road today.



## GW4 Grammar & Writing Sample

27. Tom and Betty always go out to dinner \_\_\_\_\_ their wedding anniversary.

28. We got up \_\_\_\_\_ dawn today.

29. Are you doing anything \_\_\_\_\_ the weekend?

30. We live \_\_\_\_\_ this address.

## Simple Present Tense

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We use the simple present tense when:

- - the action is general
- - the action happens all the time, or habitually, - in the past, present and future
- - the action is not only happening now
- - the statement is always true

Look at these examples:

- I live in New York.
- The Moon goes round the Earth.
- John drives a taxi.
- He does not drive a bus.
- We do not work at night.
- Do you play football?

Note that with the verb to be, we can also use the simple present tense for situations that are not general. We can use the simple present tense to talk about now. Look at these examples of the verb to be in the present simple tense — some of them are general, some of them are now:

- Am I right?
- Tara is not at home.
- You are happy.

Fill each blank with simple present tense of the verbs given.

31. She \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in a flat.
32. He \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the piano.
33. The cook \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in the kitchen.
34. The woman \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a cup of tea.

35. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) at the concert this evening.
36. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) musical and plays several instruments.
37. We \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in France.
38. The car \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in the garage.
39. He \_\_\_\_\_ (live) at 27 South Street.
40. They \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a holiday in August.
41. The boy \_\_\_\_\_ (have) an ice-cream.
42. She \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the violin.
43. They \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in that hotel.
44. Mr Jones \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a bad temper.

45. You \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Stockholm.
46. She \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in the country.
47. English \_\_\_\_\_ (be) an easy language.
48. The tourists \_\_\_\_\_ (be) on the bus and ready to go.
49. They \_\_\_\_\_ (be) Spanish, from Toledo..
50. They \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Rome.
51. They \_\_\_\_\_ (play) football.
52. He \_\_\_\_\_ (play) golf.
53. Mrs Jones \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a nice smile.
54. I \_\_\_\_\_ (live) near the sea.

55. She \_\_\_\_\_ (play) ping-pong ball.

56. She \_\_\_\_\_ (play) tennis.

57. Mr Jones \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in a bad temper.

58. I \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the flute.

59. The men \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a football match on Saturday afternoon.

60. The girl \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a new dress for the party.

61. The girl \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a cake.

**Reading for Writing**

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Choose the best word to complete the following passage.

Have you ever heard of fierce monsters that are less than half an inch in size? Some people think that the army ants of Africa, Central America, and South America fill that \_\_\_\_\_.

- 62. (A) jungle
- (B) tree
- (C) cave
- (D) place
- (E) description

Army ants are feared jungle hunters, and with reason. Thousands of hungry brown, black, or red female worker ants may set out \_\_\_\_\_ to hunt.

- 63. (A) together
- (B) slowly
- (C) alone
- (D) fearfully
- (E) separately

They travel in columns a few hundred feet long. Though these ants are blind, the workers have no trouble finding their way. They have a keen sense of smell. So they just follow the \_\_\_\_\_ left on the trail by the ants in front of them.

- 64. (A) leaves
- (B) tracks
- (C) scent
- (D) bumps
- (E) prints

Any insect that is caught by this army is overwhelmed by the \_\_\_\_\_ of these ants.

- 65. (A) number
- (B) length
- (C) smell
- (D) height
- (E) size

Because there are so many workers in the long column, they are sometimes able to kill even big animals like pigs and dogs. But usually, only large animals that cannot get out of the ants' \_\_\_\_\_ are devoured.

66. (A) nest  
(B) path  
(C) food  
(D) home  
(E) hill

A trapped or injured creature, for example, might find itself on the ants' route. If the wounded animal cannot move, the column of ants will discover it. Then they'll take it back to the nest—tiny mouthful by tiny mouthful. The female workers \_\_\_\_\_ the victim.

67. (A) hear  
(B) trip  
(C) see  
(D) bite  
(E) smell

With their powerful jaws, they tear it apart bit by bit and carry the little chunks of meat back to the colony. There the ants and their load are welcomed. The \_\_\_\_\_ of food that they bring have to feed 100,000 mouths.

68. (A) barrels  
(B) pieces  
(C) plates  
(D) pots  
(E) dishes

No wonder the workers hunt every day!

# Answer Key

## Prepositions of Direction: To, On (to), In (to)

1. in
2. at
3. at
4. in
5. on
6. in
7. in
8. at
9. in
10. in
11. at
12. at
13. on
14. on
15. in
16. at
17. in
18. in
19. on
20. on
21. on
22. on
23. on
24. at
25. in
26. on
27. on
28. at

29. on
30. at

## Simple Present Tense

31. lives
32. plays
33. is
34. has
35. is
36. is
37. live
38. is
39. lives
40. have
41. has
42. plays
43. are
44. has
45. live
46. lives
47. is
48. are
49. are
50. live
51. play
52. plays
53. has
54. live
55. plays
56. plays



- 57. is
- 58. play
- 59. have
- 60. has
- 61. has

**Reading for Writing**

- 62. E
- 63. A
- 64. C
- 65. A
- 66. B
- 67. D
- 68. B