

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. You will need a pen or a pencil.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. He is responsible for bringing a number of items.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. You must write a report on a subjects of your choice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. They crossed through several forests and a stream.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. There will be another important lessons tomorrow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. He could not give me a good reasons for what he did.

### SKILL 55: DISTINGUISH SPECIFIC AND GENERAL IDEAS

With countable singular nouns it is possible to use either the definite or the indefinite article, but they have different meanings. The definite article is used to refer to one specific noun.

Tom will bring *the* book tomorrow.

(There is one specific book that Tom will bring tomorrow.)

He will arrive on *the* first Tuesday in July.

(There is only one first Tuesday in July.)

He sailed on *the* Pacific Ocean.

(There is only one Pacific Ocean.)

The indefinite article is used when the noun could be one of several different nouns.

Tom will bring *a* book tomorrow.

(Tom will bring any one book.)

He will arrive on *a* Tuesday in July.

(He will arrive on one of four Tuesdays in July.)

He sailed on *an* ocean.

(He sailed on any one of the world's oceans.)

The following chart outlines the key information that you should understand about specific and general ideas:

SPECIFIC AND GENERAL IDEAS		
ARTICLE	MEANING	USES
A OR AN	general idea	Use when there are <i>many</i> , and you do not <i>know</i> which one it is. Use when there are <i>many</i> , and you do not <i>care</i> which one it is.
THE	specific idea	Use when it is <i>the only one</i> . Use when there are <i>many</i> , and you <i>know</i> which one it is.

**EXERCISE 55:** Each of the following sentences contains one or more articles. Circle the articles. Draw arrows to the nouns they describe. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- I 1. He took (a) trip on (a) Snake River.
- C 2. I'll meet you at (the) library later.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The ball hit a child on a head.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. He had a best grade in the class on the exam.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The people who came here yesterday were here again today.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. She was a most beautiful girl in the room.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The trip that I took last year to the Bahamas was the only vacation I had all year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. I need a piece of paper so that I can finish the report that I am working on.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. A basketball player threw the ball to a center of the court.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The sixth-grade class went on a field trip to visit a Lincoln Memorial.

**EXERCISE (Skills 52–55):** Circle the articles in the following sentences. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. He took a money from his wallet to pay for sweater.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The notebook that he left had an important assignment in it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Because of previous disagreements, they are trying to arrive at an understanding.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The appearance of room could be improved by adding a green plants.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The Senate passed law banning smoking in public workplaces.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Each chemistry student should bring laboratory manual to a next class.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. She admitted that she made mistake but said that she had made a honest effort.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. His absence from the board meeting was a strong indications of his desire to leave the company.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The car needed gas, so the driver stopped at a service station.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Anyone taking group tour to the Hawaiian Islands must pay fee before a first of the month.

**TOEFL EXERCISE (Skills 52–55):** Choose the letter of the underlined word or group of words that is not correct.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. On a trip down to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, the equipment will in all probability be carried by a burros.
- A B C D
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Ford designed the first large-scale assembly line at plant in Highland Park, Michigan.
- A B C D
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. In the human body, blood flows from a heart through the arteries, and it returns through the veins.
- A B C D
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The scholarship that Wilson received to study history at Cambridge presented an unique opportunity.
- A B C D
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Observations from Earth indicate that at the solar surface, the outward magnetic field is a strongest at the polar regions.
- A B C D
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. A radar images of Venus add details about a planet dominated by volcanoes and lava.
- A B C D
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. In 1863 and 1864, the U.S. Congress passed the National Bank Acts, which set up a system of privately owned banks chartered by a federal government.
- A B C D
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. An human ear responds to a wide range of frequencies.
- A B C D
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Bacteria that live in soil and water play a vital role in recycling carbon, nitrogen, sulfur, and another chemical elements used by living things.
- A B C D
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. During the U.S. Civil War, an American balloonist organized a balloon corps in Army.
- A B C D

**TOEFL REVIEW EXERCISE (Skills 1–55):** Choose the letter of the word or group of words that best completes the sentence.

1. In economics, “diminishing returns” describes \_\_\_\_\_ resource inputs and production.

- (A) among  
(B) when it is  
(C) among them  
(D) the relationship between

2. When lava reaches the surface, its temperature can be ten times \_\_\_\_\_ boiling water.

- (A) the temperature  
(B) that of  
(C) it is  
(D) more

3. Rarely \_\_\_\_\_ remove the entire root of a dandelion because of its length and sturdiness.

- (A) can the casual gardener
- (B) the casual gardener
- (C) the casual gardener will
- (D) does the casual gardener's

Choose the letter of the underlined word or group of words that is not correct.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Operas can be broadly classified as either comedies or they are tragedies.

A                      B                      C                      D

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Tungsten has the highest melting point of all metals, and for this reason it is often use in equipment that must withstand high temperatures.

B                      C                      D

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Whereas there are forty-three ant species in Great Britain, the same amount of ant species can be found in a single tree in Peru.

A                      B                      C                      D

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. People voice theirs opinions first in small groups or among friends and acquaintances.

D

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Inside the Lincoln Memorial is a large statue of Lincoln make from white marble.

A                      B                      C                      D

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Detailed photometric data of the area just north of Triton's equatorial region indicate the existence of a thin, transparent layers of frost.

B                      C                      D

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. U.S. census figures indicate that people with only an elementary education can earn just half as much as college graduations.

A                      B                      C                      D

## PROBLEMS WITH PREPOSITIONS

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Prepositions can be used in two ways: in a literal way and in an idiomatic way. In the literal use, the preposition means exactly what you expect.

The boy ran *up* the hill.

She went *in* the house.

In the first example, the preposition *up* means that the boy went in the direction *up* rather than *down*. In the second example, the preposition *in* means that she went *into* rather than *out of* the house.

In the idiomatic use, which is what appears most often on the TOEFL test, the preposition appears in an idiomatic expression; that is, its meaning in this expression has nothing to do with the literal meaning.

I call *up* my friend.

He succeeded *in* passing the course.

In the first example, the word *up* has nothing to do with the direction *up*. *To call up someone* means *to telephone someone*. In the second example, the word *in* has nothing to do with the meaning of *into* or *inside*; it is simply idiomatic that the word *in* is used after the verb *succeed*.

It is impossible to list all potential idiomatic expressions with their prepositions because there are so many expressions that could appear on the TOEFL test. However, in this chapter you can practice recognizing problems with prepositions in TOEFL-type questions. Then, when you are working in written expression questions on the TOEFL test, you should be aware that idiomatic errors with prepositions are common in that section. There are two common types of problems with prepositions that you should expect: (1) incorrect prepositions and (2) omitted prepositions.

### SKILL 56: RECOGNIZE INCORRECT PREPOSITIONS

Sometimes an incorrect preposition is given in a sentence in written expression questions on the TOEFL test.

The game was called *on*\* because of rain.

I knew I could count *in*\* you to do a good job.

The first example should say that the game was *called off* because of rain. The expression *called off* means *anceled*, and that is the meaning that makes sense in this sentence. *To call on someone* is *to visit someone*, and this meaning does not make sense in this example. In the second example, it is not correct in English to *count in someone*. The correct expression is to *count on someone*.