

Sentence Structure

Prepositional Phrases

We all know that a sentence needs a subject, but we also need to remember that main subjects do not appear in prepositional phrases. Sometimes, the solution to a missing subject is simply to remove a preposition. Look at the example below, which can be corrected by removing either **in** or **by**:

“In the article by Borenstein states that Peking Man could survive icy conditions.”

“In the article by Borenstein states that Peking Man could survive icy conditions.”

Some common prepositions:

in	to	by	after	except	despite
on	out	from	along	upon	during
of	at	as	with	across	among

Other examples, where a preposition has to be removed in order to provide a subject for the sentence, are:

By asking his name, age and comfort level allows my patient to be involved in the treatment.

At 9 o'clock is when the lecture begins.

With hard work helps me to keep up-to-date with my studies.

Try now to correct the following:

1. In the lecture by Dr Bahra cleared up the confusion.
2. As the late class made me miss my bus.
3. During driving to Montreal made me very tired.
4. As the weather yesterday was hot and humid.
5. With Caroline and I are going to the mall tomorrow.
6. At Dr Brown's office is full of books.
7. Among everyone in the class failed their mid-term test.
8. After Soheil tried to tell me how to get to his house.
9. By studying every day for eight hours helped me to pass the class.
10. From working two jobs made me tired and anxious.

Check possible answers to this activity on [NOOL](#).

Student Learning Centre

Call: 905.721.8668 ext. 6578

Email: studentlearning@ontariotechu.ca

Downtown Oshawa Location: 61 Charles St.

North Oshawa Location: Student Life Building

