

AE Academic English UK

Error Correction



SCIENCE: Life on Other Planets

Preposition (Prep)

Copyright: These materials are photocopiable but please leave all logos and web addresses on handouts. **Please don't post these materials onto the web.** Thank you

Error Correction

Aim: To provide students with the practice on identifying common errors, so they are able to understand the teacher's feedback as well as develop the skills required to edit their own writing. For this session, the focus is on prepositions (**Prep**).

Time: 45-60 minutes

Lead in

- Ask students to discuss the questions in pairs or small groups. If the topic is completely new, allow ten minutes to conduct some research first.

Task 1

- Check students understand what prepositions (Prep) are.
- Students complete the sentence-level '**Error Correction Practice: Preposition (Prep)**' individually before comparing their answers with a partner or small group.
- Feedback: Distribute or project **ANSWERS**.

Task 2

There are two options for this task. Decide which one would be better for the level of your students.

- **Option 1 (Worksheet 1):** This is a scaffolded approach in that the text contains the preposition (Prep) code within the article, so the students know exactly where each error is.
- **Option 2 (Worksheet 2):** This is an un-scaffolded approach in that the text does not contain the preposition (Prep) code within the article, so the students will have to conduct a closer analysis to find the errors.

Worksheet 1: Guided (30 minutes)

- Students analyse the ten errors in the given text. They complete the given table of the error, the reason why it is incorrect and the corrected version.
- Allow students time to compare with their partner(s) before giving out the answers.
- Feedback: Distribute or project **ANSWERS**.

Worksheet 2: More challenging (30 minutes)

- Students identify and correct the ten errors in the given text. They complete the given table of the error, the reason why it is incorrect and the corrected version.
- Allow students time to compare with their partner(s) before giving out the answers.
- Feedback: Distribute or project **ANSWERS**.

Differentiation

- For mixed ability classes, students can be provided with the worksheet that suits their ability.

Task 3

- Students look through their previous feedback and identify the errors they have made with prepositions (Prep). They then complete the '**Error Correction Diary**' with the error, the reason for the mistake and the correction.

Life on Other Planets

Lead in

Discuss these questions with a partner or small group:

1. *Do you think there could be life on other planets? What are your reasons?*
2. *Why is space exploration so important?*
3. *What could be the impact of discovering life on other planets?*
4. *How do you think space exploration will change in the future?*

You are going to read sentences and an article about life on other planets and identify the errors with preposition (Prep). ***These could include verb + preposition, adjective + preposition, noun + preposition, adverb + preposition, prepositions of place and movement.*** Look up these words before you start if you are not sure what they are.

Error Correction Practice: Preposition (Prep)

Task 1

Read the following five sentences and identify the ten preposition (Prep) errors. Compare with your partner(s) when you have finished.

	Preposition Errors	Rewrite
1.	The aim of NASA's exoplanet program is to discover definitive evidence on existing life in a planet beyond Earth.	
2.	In the thousands of exoplanets, planets on other stars, Earth is still the only planet to host life.	
3.	It is only in advancements in powerful new telescopes, cameras, and computers that we have finally attained the precision required to measuring the spectra of exoplanets.	
4.	The next mission for the exoplanet program is a probe on 20 known planets to uncover the composition of their atmospheres.	
5.	The difficulty through accurately confirming the presence of water by exoplanet atmospheres arises from the fact that variations in light from the host star can mimic it.	

Worksheet 1: Life on Other Planets (Kennedy, 2024)

Task 2

Read the following text and correct the ten errors. Complete the table below of the error, the reason why it is incorrect and your correction. Compare with your partner(s) when you have finished.

Whether life exists on other planets **at** ^{prep} and beyond our solar system has been of considerable debate for many years. It was once thought that the only planets which could be located were the ones in our solar system, yet recently using new technology such as the Giant Magellan Telescope, AI and machine learning to scan the solar system, astronomers have now discovered thousands more stars in the Milky Way galaxy, **many** ^{^ prep} **them** with planets as big as Earth and possess Earth-like qualities. One of which is the circumstellar habitable zone which is the area orbiting **over** ^{prep} a star that could host subsurface liquid water (NASA, 2024a; Mann, 2023). For these reasons, there is a strong belief **for** ^{prep} experts that there is still much to discover and hope for regarding finding life beyond planet Earth.

Identifying liquid water is the main determining factor whether these planets are habitable. Chan (2024) claims that this is because it is necessary for life to form, either internally or externally. Another suggestion is **on** ^{prep} examining elements of extraterrestrial cells, such as compounds or molecules that show evidence of a past or present life, either **of** ^{prep} way of biomineralisation or fossilisation. Furthermore, both Chan (2024) and Mann (2023) agree that another method of searching **at** ^{prep} extraterrestrial life is by researching how living things survive in hot, salty, acidic and radioactive environments. Meanwhile, NASA (2024b) aims to focus **with** ^{prep} a distant planet's reflected light to detect the signatures of oxygen or water vapour, and possible chemical combinations between carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorous and sulphur are already underway, as are plans to send the most **in** ^{prep} -to-date, remote-sensing spacecrafts to exoplanets **of** ^{prep} the next five to ten years. It is clear that the search for extraterrestrial life is only intensifying.

	Error	Analysis	Rewrite
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

*Reference List on answer sheet

Worksheet 2: Life on Other Planets (Kennedy, 2024)

Task 2

Read the following text and identify and correct the ten errors. Complete the table below of the error, the reason why it is incorrect and your correction. Compare with your partner(s) when you have finished.

Whether life exists on other planets at and beyond our solar system has been of considerable debate for many years. It was once thought that the only planets which could be located were the ones in our solar system, yet recently using new technology such as the Giant Magellan Telescope, AI and machine learning to scan the solar system, astronomers have now discovered thousands more stars in the Milky Way galaxy, many them with planets as big as Earth and possess Earth-like qualities. One of which is the circumstellar habitable zone which is the area orbiting over a star that could host subsurface liquid water (NASA, 2024a; Mann, 2023). For these reasons, there is a strong belief for experts that there is still much to discover and hope for regarding finding life beyond planet Earth.

Identifying liquid water is the main determining factor whether these planets are habitable. Chan (2024) claims that this is because it is necessary for life to form, either internally or externally. Another suggestion is on examining elements of extraterrestrial cells, such as compounds or molecules that show evidence of a past or present life, either of way of biomineralisation or fossilisation. Furthermore, both Chan (2024) and Mann (2023) agree that another method of searching at extraterrestrial life is by researching how living things survive in hot, salty, acidic and radioactive environments. Meanwhile, NASA (2024b) aims to focus with a distant planet's reflected light to detect the signatures of oxygen or water vapour, and possible chemical combinations between carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorous and sulphur are already underway, as are plans to send the most in-to-date, remote-sensing spacecrafts to exoplanets of the next five to ten years. It is clear that the search for extraterrestrial life is only intensifying.

	Error	Analysis	Rewrite
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

*Reference List on answer sheet

Error Correction Diary (Prep)

Task 3

Look back on any recent written work that you have received feedback on. Complete the table with at least five mistakes that you have made with prepositions (Prep).

	Error	Analysis	Rewrite
1	The habitable zone of a planet refers to the distance from its star where liquid water can remain stable <u>in</u> the surface.	The preposition 'in' is incorrect as this would mean inside rather than 'on top of'.	The habitable zone of a planet refers to the distance from its star where liquid water can remain stable <u>on</u> the surface.
2			
3			
4			
5			

Error Correction Practice: Preposition (Prep) **ANSWERS**

Task 1

	Preposition Errors	Rewrite
1.	The aim of NASA's exoplanet program is to discover definitive evidence on existing life in a planet beyond Earth.	The aim of NASA's exoplanet program is to discover definitive evidence <i>of</i> existing life <i>on</i> a planet beyond Earth.
2.	In the thousands of exoplanets, planets on other stars, Earth is still the only planet to host life.	<i>Among</i> the thousands of exoplanets, planets <i>around</i> other stars, Earth is still the only planet to host life.
3.	It is only in advancements in powerful new telescopes, cameras, and computers that we have finally attained the precision required to measuring the spectra of exoplanets.	It is only <i>through</i> advancements in powerful new telescopes, cameras, and computers that we have finally attained the precision required <i>for</i> measuring the spectra of exoplanets.
4.	The next mission among the exoplanet program is a probe on 20 known planets to uncover the composition of their atmospheres.	The next mission <i>in</i> the exoplanet program is a probe <i>of</i> 20 known planets to uncover the composition of their atmospheres.
5.	The difficulty through accurately confirming the presence of water by exoplanet atmospheres arises from the fact that variations in light from the host star can mimic it.	The difficulty <i>in</i> accurately confirming the presence of water <i>within</i> exoplanet atmospheres arises from the fact that variations in light from the host star can mimic it.

Task 2**Life on Other Planets ANSWERS**

Whether life exists on other planets **in** and beyond our solar system has been of considerable debate for many years. It was once thought that the only planets which could be located were the ones in our solar system, yet recently using new technology such as the Giant Magellan Telescope, AI and machine learning to scan the solar system, astronomers have now discovered thousands more stars in the Milky Way galaxy, many **of** them with planets as big as Earth and possess Earth-like qualities. One of which is the circumstellar habitable zone which is the area orbiting **around** a star that could host subsurface liquid water (NASA, 2024a; Mann, 2023). For these reasons, there is a strong belief **among** experts that there is still much to discover and hope for regarding finding life beyond planet Earth.

Identifying liquid water is the main determining factor whether these planets are habitable. Chan (2024) claims that this is because it is necessary for life to form, either internally or externally. Another suggestion is **through** examining elements of extraterrestrial cells, such as compounds or molecules that show evidence of a past or present life, either **by** way of biomineralisation or fossilisation. Furthermore, both Chan (2024) and Mann (2023) agree that another method of searching **for** extraterrestrial life is by researching how living things survive in hot, salty, acidic and radioactive environments. Meanwhile, NASA (2024b) aims to focus **on** a distant planet's reflected light to detect the signatures of oxygen or water vapour, and possible chemical combinations between carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorous and sulphur are already underway, as are plans to send the most **up**-to-date, remote-sensing spacecrafts to exoplanets **within** the next five to ten years. It is clear that the search for extraterrestrial life is only intensifying

Reference List

Chan, A., (2024). *Are we alone in the universe?* [online]. Available at:

<https://www.oxfordstudent.com/2024/01/28/are-we-alone-in-the-universe/> [Accessed 15.01.2025].

Mann, A., (2023). *The Biggest Questions: Are we alone in the universe?* [online]. Available at:

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2023/11/13/1082873/the-biggest-questions-are-we-alone-in-the-universe/> [Accessed 16.01.2025].

NASA, (2024a). *Are we alone?* [online]. Available at: <https://science.nasa.gov/exoplanets/search-for-life/> [Accessed 17.01.2025].

NASA, (2024b). *Is There Life on Other Planets?* [online]. Available at: <https://science.nasa.gov/exoplanets/is-there-life-on-other-planets/> [Accessed 16.01.2025].

Preposition Analysis **ANSWERS**

	Error	Analysis	Rewrite
1.	at ^{prep} and beyond our solar system	This should be the preposition of place 'in' as it indicates something existing within something else.	<i>in</i> and beyond our solar system
2.	many ^{prep} them	This should follow the rule of quantifier + of + pronoun, which is a standard way to describe a subset of a group.	many <i>of</i> them
3.	orbiting over ^{prep} a star	This should be 'around' to indicate movement in a circular way.	orbiting <i>around</i> a star
4.	belief for ^{prep} experts	This should be 'among' to indicate something that is shared, distributed, or exists within a group.	belief <i>among</i> experts
5.	suggestion is on ^{prep} examining	This should be 'through' to indicate the means.	suggestion is <i>through</i> examining
6.	either of ^{prep} way of	This should be 'by' as 'by way of' is a prepositional phrase meaning 'via' or 'through the method of'.	either <i>by</i> way of
7.	searching at ^{prep} extraterrestrial life	This should be 'for' to indicate purpose or goal.	searching <i>for</i> extraterrestrial life
8.	focus with ^{prep} a distant planet's reflected light	This should be 'on' as we are specifying what is being given attention to or studied.	focus <i>on</i> a distant planet's reflected light
9.	the most in ^{prep} -to-date	This should be 'up-to-date' as it is a fixed phrase.	the most <i>up-to-date</i>
10.	of ^{prep} the next five to ten years	This should be 'within' to convey something will happen at any point during a specified time frame.	<i>within</i> the next five to ten years