MASTERING ARTICLES AND PREPOSITIONS

Two kinds of little words—articles and prepositions—can sometimes cause big problems for non-native speakers of English—and even for some native speakers. No one notices these words when you use them correctly. However, when you don’t, your writing sounds odd, and sometimes your meaning can be unclear. Remember that good writing should allow readers to pay attention to what you have to say, not force them to notice mistakes in the way you say it. This handout will examine some solutions to typical problems with articles and prepositions.

USING ARTICLES

The articles—a, an, and the—help your reader understand whether you are using a noun in a general or specific way. However, some people confuse a with an, and many non-native speakers of English have difficulty distinguishing when to use a/an, the, or no article at all. Unfortunately, rules will not explain all uses of articles; some must simply be memorized. The following rules explain most uses, though.

A/An

Use a Before Consonant Sounds, an Before Vowel Sounds. The beginning sound—not the spelling—of a word determines whether you should use a or an before it. A goes before consonant sounds.

- a lesson
- a chair
- a doctor

An goes before vowel sounds (for example, an apple is easier to pronounce than a apple). *

- an elephant
- an awful experience
- an enormous task
- an overcharge

*Don’t confuse an with the conjunction and:

- an hour
- I took a nap for an hour, and then I got up.

Note: The following two sounds are different from their spellings.

1. Long u is pronounced like the word you, so its sound begins with y, a consonant. Therefore, use a before words beginning with long u.

- a unit
- a unique experience
- a useful product
- but: an uncle
- an unusual experience

2. Words beginning with silent h have a vowel for their first sound. Therefore, an comes before these words.

- an hour
- an honor
In Summary: To use a/an,

1. place a before consonant sounds, including long u (for example: a bottle, a universal idea);
2. place an before vowel sounds and silent h (for example: an April day, an honor).

1 WARM-UP Place a or an before each of the following words or phrases.

1.______ child  
2.______ hour  
3.______ eager beaver  
4.______ lion tamer  
5.______ sidewalk  
6.______ hopeful moment  
7.______ sidewalk  
8.______ island  
9.______ open book  
10.______ historic event  
11.______ carpenter  
12.______ elephant  
13.______ letter  
14.______ humid day  
15.______ alley  
16.______ urban environment  
17.______ unique environment  
18.______ ironing board

Singular Countable Nouns: A/An Versus The

With Singular Countable Nouns. Use a or an to Mean “Any One.” There are two kinds of nouns in English:

1. countable nouns (you can put a number before them): one day, three apples, five people.
2. uncountable nouns (you cannot put a number before them): water, music, honesty, luggage.

The article a/an means the same thing as the number one. Therefore, you can use a/an only before a singular countable noun. A/an means “any one” or “one of many.”

Don’t use a/an before plural countable nouns.

Here are some examples of the use of a/an.

Take a pencil (any one pencil; there are many choices).
I just ate an apple (one of many possible apples).
A robin built its nest in that tree (not a specific robin; it could be any on robin).

Use a/an for Identification. In many languages, you could write “I am student” without the a. In English, you must include the a, since you mean, “I am one of many students.” Here are some more sentences in which a/an identifies someone or something.

He is a lawyer.
It is an adjective.
She is only a municipal worker.
That was a funny story.

The

Use the to Point to a Specific One. Unlike a, which means “any one,” the points out a specific one or a particular one. Here are some examples of the use of the:

What is the assignment for Wednesday? (Specifies it and distinguishes it from other assignments, like those for Monday and Friday.)
The new Chevrolet that Linda bought is beautiful. (Specifies it and distinguishes it from other cars or Chevrolets.)
Let’s eat the apple pie. (Specifies it and distinguishes it from other pies, like peach or cherry pies.)
The man standing over there asked to speak to the manager. (Specifies man and distinguishes him from others who may be present.)

Use the When You Mean the Only One. Sometimes there is only one of something in a room, or in a house, or in the whole world. When you refer to that thing, you cannot use the article a, for a implies that something comes from a group containing more than one. You must use the article the.

The roof of this house leaks. (The house has only one roof.)
I want to buy carpeting for the floor. (There is only one floor.)
What time does the clock say? (There is only one clock in the room.)
The sky is cloudy today. (There is only one sky.)

Use the to Refer to Nouns You Have Already Mentioned. Once you have mentioned a noun, you have specified which one you mean. When you mention it a second time, you should use the before it instead of a.

Would you buy a used car from that man?
Yes, but only if the car (now specified) had a five-year guarantee.
You will find a pair of earrings and a necklace in my drawer. The Necklace (now specified) was my grandmother’s.

In Summary: To use a/an or the with singular, countable nouns,

1. use a/an when you mean any one or one of many (for example: a tree = any tree; a hair = one hair);
2. use a/an for identification (for example: “Tom is a barber.”);
3. use the to point out a specific or particular one (for example: the chair in the corner, or the pen with the missing cap);
4. use the when you mean the only one (for example: the floor, the second floor, the attic);
5. use the to refer to nouns you have already mentioned (for example: “I found a photograph and a painting in the attic. The painting [now specified] apparently was based on the photograph.”).
2 WARM-UP  In each blank space, write either a/an or the.

1. In 1843 ______ gentleman from Abbeville, South Carolina, refused ______ challenge to ______ duel. As a result, his neighbors were so happy that they gave him ______ barbecue.

2. In 1844 New York got ______ police department, but no uniforms.

3. In 1849 Elizabeth Blackwell was ______ first woman doctor to practice in the United States.

4. In 1860 baseball’s “seventh-inning stretch” began. It was ______ way to bring luck to ______ home team because “7” was ______ winning number in dice.

5. In 1861 Congress passed ______ first income-tax law. ______ rate was three percent of income over $800 ______ year.

6. In 1862 ______ twenty-three-year-old man invested $4,000 of his life’s savings in ______ oil refinery. His name was John D. Rockefeller.

7. In 1864 ______ motto “In God We Trust” appeared for ______ first time on ______ coin.

8. In 1865 ______ black chef introduced ______ potato chip to the United States.

9. In 1870 Mississippi sent ______ new senator to the United States Congress. He was Hiram R. Revels, ______ first black man ever to serve in ______ Senate.

10. In 1871 ______ fire started in ______ stable on ______ west side of Chicago. It swept through ______ city, destroying $200 million in property.

11. In 1873 John Henry, ______ black railroad worker whose unbelievable
strength made him ______legend in his lifetime, died while working on ______railroad tunnel in West Virginia. ______ballad based on his life quickly became popular.

12. In 1876 Alexander Graham Bell patented _____telephone.

13. In 1878 Thomas Edison took out _____patent on _____phonograph.

14. In 1879 Frank W. Woolworth wanted to set up _____low-priced shopping center. _____result was _____five-and-ten-cent store in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

**Plural Countable Nouns and Uncountable Nouns: The Versus No Article**

Use **the** Before Specific Plural Countable and Specific Uncountable Nouns; Use **No Article** Before General Plural Countable and General Uncountable Nouns. As you know, you cannot place *a/an* before a plural noun. Therefore, when you use a plural noun, your choice is limited to *the* or no article at all. *The* makes the plural noun specific; no article makes the plural noun nonspecific, or general, in its meaning. Compare these examples.

*The three birds on the windowsill* (specific) are pigeons.  
*but*

*Birds* (in general) are interesting animals.  
*The people on my block* (specific) are friendly.  
*but*

*People* (in general) are attending college in larger numbers.  
*The examinations this semester* (specific) have been easier than the examinations last semester.

*Examinations* (in general) don’t usually make me nervous.

If you use an *uncountable* noun in a general sense, you also do not use an article. Compare these examples.

*The water in Lake Erie* (specific) is polluted.  
*but*

*Water* (in general) is plentiful.  
*The fruit this season* (specific) has been expensive.  
*but*

*Fruit* (general) is good for you.
In Summary: With plural nouns,

1. place the before specific plurals (for example: *the last three days, the lectures Professor Chin gave*);
2. place no article before plurals used in a general sense (for example: *many students, rock bands, prices*).

With uncountable nouns used in a general sense,

3 WARM-UP

Write *the* only where it is needed in the blanks below; otherwise leave the space blank.

1. ______people I know like _____movies.
2. I loved ______two movies I saw this weekend.
3. ______telephone company is a legal monopoly.
4. ______legal monopolies include the telephone company and the gas company.
5. ______police do not belong to ______unions.
6. ______police in our neighborhood seem to patrol each block regularly.
7. ______refrigerators in Europe are smaller than______ones in the United States.
8. We saw ______some beautiful refrigerators on sale.
9. I attend ______church on Main Street.
10. I go to ______church.
11. ______good diet is important to ______good health.
12. You ought to try _____new high-protein diet.
13. _____lunch at Chez Pierre costs _____five dollars.
14. _____five-dollar bill has Lincoln’s picture on it.
Some Additional Advice About A/An and The

Some Names Require the.
Use the before the names of the countries that end in –s or contain the word Republic.

the United States (but just America)
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (but just Russia)
the Netherlands (but just Holland)
the British Isles (but just Great Britain)
the People’s Republic of China (but just China)
Note this exception: the Soviet Union

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Use the before the names of rivers, oceans, and seas (but not lakes).

the Nile River       the Mediterranean Sea
the Atlantic Ocean   Lake Superior
Exception: the Great Salt Lake

Use the before the names of colleges and universities beginning with the words College or University.

the University of Illinois       Indiana University
the University of Southern California  Boston College
the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

In Summary: Place the before capitalized nouns

1. that are country names that end in –s (the United States) or that contain the word Republic (the Republic of South Africa);

2. that are river, ocean, or sea names (the Atlantic Ocean). Do not place the before lake names (Lake Erie);

3. that are the names of colleges or universities beginning with the words College or University (the University of Iowa).

4 WARM-UP Place the before the capitalized nouns that require it.

1. _______Caspian Sea
2. _______University of Pittsburgh
3. _______Lake Ontario
4. _______Germany
5. _______Northwestern University
6. _______Canada
7. _______Socialist Republic of Vietnam
8. _______Atlantic Ocean
9. _______College of DuPage
10. ________United Arab Republic

Some Words Replace Articles Before Nouns. When you place one of the following words before a noun, you cannot use an article.

- every
- any
- much
- each
- no
- which
- either
- enough
- what
- neither
- many
- his, her, their, etc.
- some
- more
- Bill’s, Mary’s, etc.

Some Words Go Before Articles. Articles, of course, usually go before any adjectives describing a noun.

- the large, round bowl
- a dirty, old apartment

However the following five adjectives go before articles.

- both (the)
- many (a)
- half (the or a)
- such (a)
- all (the)

5 TRANSFORMING Rewrite each of the following sentences so that it needs the article the.

1. People are very friendly. ___________________

2. We like modern furniture. ___________________

3. Homework is usually difficult. ______________

4. Albert loves food. _________________________

5. Love is hard to find. _______________________

6. I like music. ______________________________
The Unsinkable Titanic

(1) It was on ^ Friday afternoon that the Titanic, newest luxury-liner addition to Britain's White Star Fleet, departed from Queenstown, Ireland, on her first voyage from Southampton to New York. (2) It carried 1,290 passengers, crew of 903, and 3,814 sacks of mail. (3) There was great excitement aboard as big ship knifed its way through Atlantic at 23 knots, speed certain to set new crossing record. (4) Few hundred miles past halfway point, lookouts in crow’s nest sighted iceberg less than quarter mile away. (5) There was no time to stop or to avoid it.

(6) No one is sure even now of exact cause of disaster. (7) Experts agree that the Titanic’s captain, E.J. Smith, must have known of iceberg danger at least hour before disaster, yet no orders were given to slow down ship’s speed. (8) Weather was clear and visibility was good. (9) Probably captain wanted to set record for crossing Atlantic. (10) Besides, captain, passengers, and crew believed the Titanic’s publicity: that she was unsinkable. (11) What could possibly happen to unsinkable ship? (12) Just before midnight, iceberg was spotted dead ahead. (13) Seconds later, the ship hit it with solid crunch. (14) Iceberg tore hole in the ship below waterline. (15) Sound was so soft that no one was frightened. (16) After few minutes, curious passengers, in a happy mood, came on deck to look around and reach over edge of the ship to touch iceberg. (17) They were unaware of second danger: fire that had begun in coal storage area before leaving Southampton had still not been put out. (18) At 12:25 a.m., after checking damage, Captain Smith ordered all passengers to come to upper deck. (19) With everyone in a happy mood, this order was carried out in fifteen minutes. (20) The captain explained what had happened and said that they must abandon ship. (21) At 12:50 a.m. Chief Officer Murdock ordered, “Crews to the boats! (22) Women and children first!” (23) People cried in panic. (24) Wives refused to leave their husbands. (25) Crewman began to grab women and shove them into lifeboats. (26) Then, husbands cooperated, literally tossing women and children into the boats. (27) By 2 a.m., all lifeboats were on water. (28) Those in lifeboats could see that the Titanic had sunk twenty-five to thirty feet and that her front end was out of the water. (29) Lifeboat crews
rowed to safety. (30) Mile from wounded ship, survivors watched the Titanic break in two, as forward half slipped beneath surface. (31) Then there was explosion, and rear began to sink into the icy waters. (32) Survivors later reported they could hear ship’s string orchestra playing as huge rear section disappeared.

(33) As a result of sinking, 1,493 passengers and crew died.

USING PREPOSITIONS

There are many prepositions* and thousands of expressions that use them. You already know many of these expressions, but the following pages will present lists of the more common ones.

Prepositions to Indicate Time

1. **At** a specific or precise time
   - Class ends **at** 3:50 P.M.
   - At midnight, the next day begins.
   - Most employees punch out for lunch **at** noon.

2. **By** a specific time (means *no later than* that time)
   - Tom will pick you up **by** 8:00.
   - Jill said she might be ready as early as 4:30 but certainly **by** 6:00.

3. **Until** a specific time (**continuing up to** that time)
   - Last night, Juanita studied **until** 11:00.
   - I won’t be able to see you **until** Monday.

4. **In** a specific time period (usually measured in hours, minutes, days, months, or years)
   - In five minutes, I will be leaving.
   - In winter, you see fewer people on the streets.
   - We are planning to go on vacation **in** July.
   - World War II ended **in** 1945.
   - In the morning, **in** the afternoon, or **in** the evening (but **at** night)

5. **For** a period of time
   - I have been a student **for** thirteen years.
   - We have been best friends **for** a long time.

6. **Since** a date or an hour
   - They have been living next door to us **since** 1973.
   - No one has eaten **since** 8:15.

7. **On** a specific day or date
   - Most people are paid **on** Friday.
   - The doctor can see you **on** June 12.

8. **During** a continuing time period (or **within** the time period)
   - I was ill **during** the night.
   - We’ll be away from the office **during** the next few hours.

9. Miscellaneous time expressions
   - on time (that is, promptly)
   - in a while
   - at the beginning (of the day, month, or year)
   - in the middle (of a day, month, or year)
   - at the end (of a day, month, or year)
   - from time to time (that is, occasionally)
7 WARM-UP In each space below, write the appropriate preposition to indicate time.

1. _______August 1, 1903, a Packard car arrived in New York, completing the first transcontinental automobile trip. It had been traveling _______ July 11, when it left San Francisco.

2. _______June, 1905, the Pennsylvania Railroad’s “fastest long-distance train in the world” began its route between New York and Chicago. It made its trip _______ eighteen hours. _______ the next week, the New York Central Railroad started its own eighteen-hour service on its Train “The Twentieth-Century Limited.” Both trains operated _______ only two weeks, and then they had wrecks, killing nineteen people.

3. _______January 22, 1907, the opera Salome opened at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. The opera was called immoral because Salome did the “Dance of the Seven Veils” in exchange for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. The Metropolitan Opera House would not allow the opera’s performance again _______ twenty-one years later.

4. _______the end of 1908, Jack Johnson, a black man, won the heavyweight boxing championship of the world. This started a search for “the great white hope,” a white boxer who could beat him. Johnson finally lost the championship _______ 1915. His boxing career lasted _______ thirty years, with only seven losses in 112 fights.

5. Most cars _______ the first years of the twentieth century were expensive, costing as much as $2,800. Then came Henry Ford’s “universal car,” the Model T. _______ several years his cars were priced at $850, but later, the Model T sold for $290.

Prepositions to Indicate Place

1. In a country, area, state, city, or neighborhood
   in France
   in Michigan
   in Boston
   in Lincoln Square
2. On a street or block
   We live on Wells Avenue
   They work on Main Street.
3. At a specific address
   We live at 1621 Wells Avenue.
   They work at 945 Main Street.
4. At an intersection of two streets
   Let’s meet at (the corner of) State Street and Madison.
8 WARM-UP In each space below, write the appropriate preposition to indicate place.

The First Traffic Light

(1) On August 5, 1914, _________Cleveland, Ohio, drivers obeyed signals from the first traffic light_________the United States. (2) It was installed_________the corner of Euclid Avenue and East 105th Street. (3) Besides the red and green lights, the signal had a loud buzzer. Two buzzes directed traffic_________Euclid to “Go,” and one buzz meant “Go” _________105th Street.

Prepositions for Vehicles and Chairs

1. In (to) and out of for small vehicles (like cars) and chairs with arms
   I got in (to) the cab as someone else was getting out of it.
   My father likes to sit in his big, comfortable chair.
2. On and off (of) for large vehicles (like planes, trains, buses, and boats) and armless chairs or any long seat (like a bench or a sofa).
   We rode on the subway and got off at our stop.
   He’s sitting on that bench over there.
   The man on the wooden chair is his brother.

9 WARM-UP Write the correct proposition in each space.

1. Years ago, people came to the United States_________boats. Now almost everyone comes here_________a plane.
2. We took a ride_________our new car. We got_________it at the park and walked around for a while.
3. Some of the people are sitting_________the couch and some of them are sitting_________armchairs.
4. Where do you usually get_________the bus? Where do you get_________it?
5. Would you please get_________that table and sit_________a chair?

Other Prepositions

1. For a reason or for someone who benefits
   Bill went to the barber for a haircut.
   Mr. Esposito asked me to mail this letter for him.
   I bought a present for my sister.
2. About a subject (or on a subject)
   We were talking about our plans for next week.
   I recently read an article about (or on) space travel.
3. Between two; among three or more
   We shared the sandwich between the two of us.
   The five members of the board discussed it among themselves.
4. From a starting point; to a destination
   We drove from Kansas to Alaska.
5. Toward (in the direction of) a place
   I walked towards the beach but turned south before I arrived at the beach.
6. Into (entering) a place or space
   He just went into that room through the back door.
7. In (inside of) a place or space
   He’s been running in the gym: he hasn’t gone outside.
8. On a surface
   The book is on the table.
   The portrait is hanging on the wall.
9. Off a surface
   I took the book off the table.
   The painting fell off the wall.

Prepositions That Repeat the Meaning of Prefixes

A prefix is something attached to the beginning of a word. For example, the prefix re- means “again,” so the word review literally means “view again.” Many words in English came from Latin; here is a list of common Latin prefixes, along with their meanings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>prefix</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ad-, ac-, ap-, a-</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>admit, acceptable, apply, agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>con-, com-</td>
<td>with</td>
<td>converse, communicate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ex-, e-</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>excuse, emigrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in-, im-</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>involved, implicit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many times—but not always—a word with one of these prefixes also repeats the meaning of the prefix in a preposition following the word:

admitted to a school; acceptable to me; apply to the school; agree to a contract

conversed with me; communicated with a friend

excused from class; emigrate from a country

involved in a crime; implicit in his statement
11 WARM-UP Write an appropriate preposition in each of the following spaces.

Was He, or Wasn't He?

(1) Because of his short height and hairless face, the French diplomat to England, Chevalier d’Eon de Beaumont (1728-1810) easily passed for a woman. (2) He was often involved _________ spying activities in which he dressed as a woman. (3) In fact, he would never admit _________ the fact that he was a man. (4) Many people became interested _________ the controversy, and they made large wagers about D’Eon’s sex. (5) Eventually, D’Eon placed an ad in a London newspaper saying that he was not concerned _________ resolving the issue and he would never admit _________ being either a man or a woman.

(6) By 1774, bets on D’Eon’s sex, amounting _________ 120,000 (about $250,000), had been made. (7) A trial was held, during which a French doctor said that it was apparent _________ him that D’Eon was a woman. (8) An associate of the doctor concurred _________ him, and the judge legally declared D’Eon to be a female. (9) Nevertheless, D’Eon still would not allow any physical examination _________ him. (10) Many bettors were very angry at this refusal, but no one would make any approach _________ him because D’Eon was a fabulous swordsman who had beaten the finest opponents.

(11) However, in 1810, D’Eon died, and at last the truth was revealed in an examination. (12) Although he had certain female characteristics like “remarkably full” breasts, something was not consistent _________ these female traits. (13) He had “male organs in every respect perfectly formed.” (14) Thus, D’Eon was declared a man, and there was a great exchange _________ money after the news.

A Reference List of Common Expressions Using Prepositions

Read through the following list to see if you know each expression on it. You may wish to memorize the ones you don’t know, or to use the list for reference when you write a paper.

12 WRITING In each space in the following passage, write an appropriate preposition. Consult the preceding list whenever necessary.

The Story Behind Lenin’s Rise to Power in Russia

(1) Vladimir I. Ulanov (later known as Nikolai Lenin) was born ______ on May 4, 1870, _________ the small city _________ Simbirsk, Russia. (2) Like many revolutionaries, he came _________ a solid, middle-class family. (3) There was very little indication _________ his childhood that when he grew up he would become fully involved _________ world-wide revolution and communism. (4) However, he was always full _________ contradictions. (5) He hated authority but
used it ruthlessly ______ people who opposed him. (6) On the other hand, he was kind _______ people who agreed ______ his ideas.

(7) Vladimir’s father was the inspector _______ public schools in Simbirsk. (8) His mother was the daughter _______ a physician. (9) Vladimir was a noisy and clumsy child, but he was brilliant. (10) He excelled _______ his schoolwork. (11) Although he was never quite comfortable _______ his classmates, he often helped them _______ their homework.

(12) _______ 1885, the first _______ two major tragedies struck his family. (13) Vladimir’s father died of heart failure. (14) As a result, Vladimir lost all faith _______ God and developed a very strong affection _______ his older brother Alexander. (15) Nothing, it seemed, could ever come _______ the family except death, which happened to Alexander in 1887. (16) Alexander had become involved _______ a conspiracy to kill the Russian king, but it failed. (17) _______ May 20, Alexander was hanged.

(18) After his brother’s death, Vladimir tried to live a normal life, but that was impossible. (19) Because he was the brother _______ a revolutionary, he was not admitted _______ any schools. (20) Finally, his high school principal helped him gain entrance _______ a law school. (21) However, _______ three months, he was expelled _______ attending a peaceful protest meeting. (22) No other school would accept him.

(23) So Vladimir tried “gentleman” farming and studied law on his own. (24) He took the law examination _______ November, 1891, and scored first ______ a group 124 people. (25) He moved _______ St. Petersburg _______ 1893 and dedicated himself _______ Marxism. (26) He conspired _______ other revolutionaries, who lived undercover and communicated _______ each other by codes written _______ invisible ink. (27) He visited factories, organized groups _______ workers, and wrote many pamphlets.

(28) _______ 1895, he went _______ Switzerland _______ more study _______ Marxism. (29) Then he returned _______ Russia _______ a printing machine and plans to print a revolutionary newspaper. (30) Before he could publish the first issue, he was arrested and accused _______ subversive activities. (31) He was _______ jail _______ the next fifteen months. (32) After his release, he again traveled _______ Switzerland. (33) _______ the years he lived there, he began another newspaper that was shipped _______ Russia illegally. (34) _______ this newspaper, he first used the name Nikolai Lenin. (35) He also became involved _______ the activities of a group called the Bolsheviks, who were extreme radicals. (36) Lenin returned _______ Russia _______ time _______ time, hoping _______ a revolution, but none occurred.

(37) Finally, during World War I, Lenin settled _______ Berne, Switzerland. (38) Meanwhile, _______ Russia, metal workers went on strike _______ a large city, and the strike spread rapidly. (39) The government of the king collapsed, and suddenly Russia was free. (40) Lenin, who was eager to return to Russia _______ his long-awaited revolution, had to make a deal _______ the Germans.
(41) It was understood that if he could take power in Russia, he would make peace _________ Germany.
(42) With this understanding, German leaders allowed Lenin to cross Germany _________ his trip
__________ the Russian border.
(43) Thus, Lenin returned _________ Russia, _________ time _________ the revolution—after it
started, perhaps, but not too late to take advantage _________ it. (44) That was the beginning _________
Lenin’s rise _________ power.