



## Clauses and Prepositional Phrases

### About These Problems

This is the broadest category in writing. The first question type will test your usage of prepositional phrases correctly. For example using "in", "of", and "out" etc. The second question type is the use of correlative conjunctions. These are "either... or" and "neither ... nor", which is the negative version of the first one. The third type is the use of gerunds, which means adding "-ing" to a verb to make it a noun. The last type of problem is placement of a clause. If a clause describes a verb or a noun, it must almost always be placed next to the thing it describes. The best way to get better at these problems is to review the definitions listed above and practice with them. Whenever you see correlated conjunctions or prepositional phrases, make sure they are placed and used correctly.

**Question.** Neither the teacher or her assistant knew where the television remote was.

- A. Neither the teacher or her assistant knew
- B. Neither the teacher nor her assistant knew
- C. Either the teacher or her assistant knew
- D. Neither the teacher and the assistant knew
- E. Either the teacher nor the assistant knew

**Answer. B:** This sentence uses a correlative conjunction. The only proper usage is show in options B and C. Since the object of the sentence is to convey nobody knew where the remote was the correct answer is option B.

**Question.** To read is a great pastime especially if you take the bus, fly, or  
A B C  
travel on trains frequently. No Error  
D E

**Answer. A:** Even though "travel on trains" sounds awkward out loud, it is still grammatically correct. The subject of the sentence needs to be a

noun so we should switch "to read" into a gerund ("Reading"). Option A is incorrect.