

Grade 5 ▶

Unit Four

PRE-INSTRUCTION CHECKLIST

MECHANICS	ACQUAINTANCE & ANALYSIS
<input type="checkbox"/> comma use: complex sentences <input type="checkbox"/> prepositional phrase identification	<input type="checkbox"/> Expository: Informative Report
	WRITING ON DEMAND
	<input type="checkbox"/> ongoing, all disciplines

PATTERN STATEMENT

Recognize, restructure, review.

NOTES

The genre should be somewhat familiar to students unless this is their first year working in *Writer's Stylus*. However, the revision skill is new. Since rough drafts often result from initial thinking about content rather than writing quality, prepositional phrases can overwhelm and obscure clarity. Revising sentences to limit prepositional phrases frequently requires restructuring. For example, revising *Steve's visit to the farm on the prairie across the state line was filled with excitement and was too short* to *Steve's exciting visit to the Ohio farm was too short* results from 1) eliminating *with excitement* and its preceding verb, *was filled*, by placing an adjective, *exciting*, before *visit*, and 2) replacing *on the prairie* and *across the state line* with *Ohio*, which succinctly and clearly communicates the intended idea. Deleting the prepositional phrases without restructuring the sentence would lessen the clarity and fail to communicate the complete idea.

As you model the skill for students, be sure to think aloud how you restructure the examples to eliminate prepositional phrases. Without this related ability, students will not be equipped to limit their use of prepositional phrases.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The pattern, *Recognize, restructure, review*, can be illustrated through packing for a trip. For example, an individual with an overloaded suitcase would need to reconsider the time of the trip, the activities to take place, and the items packed to take. If the trip is just an overnight somewhere and the suitcase holds seven pairs of socks, several can be eliminated and the remaining items restructured (i.e., reorganized) in the suitcase. A fun role-play, in which the teacher or another individual enters the classroom with an overloaded suitcase, could initiate the EXperience strand. In the EX-co activity, the following ideas should be identified: recognizing there was too much in the suitcase, restructuring the contents based on the intent and length of the trip, and then reviewing to be sure the suitcase holds what it needs (and only what it needs). Such an emphasis leads naturally to the pattern statement.

REVISION SKILLS

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES			
Objective		Checklist	
<p>With teacher prompting and support, student identifies and revises sentences comprising more than three prepositional phrases by eliminating nonessential phrases and rewording the sentence to eliminate other phrases (e.g., <i>Steve's visit to the farm on the prairie across the state line was filled with excitement and was too short to Steve's exciting visit to the Ohio farm was too short.</i>)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read the draft to identify prepositional phrases. <input type="checkbox"/> Examine each prepositional phrase, especially those in sentences that contain two or more. <input type="checkbox"/> If possible, revise the sentence to eliminate as many prepositional phrases as possible without changing your intended meaning. 	
Rubric			
EXEMPLARY	PROFICIENT	ADEQUATE	NOT YET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing features no sentences with with three or more prepositional phrases that negatively influence the writing's clarity. ▶ The writing features excellent clarity and brevity. Only necessary prepositional phrases are included. ▶ Additional revisions are unlikely to further limit prepositional phrase usage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing features no sentences with with three or more prepositional phrases that negatively influence the writing's clarity. ▶ Some prepositional phrases could still be eliminated to improve clarity and/or brevity. ▶ Additional revisions could further limit prepositional phrase usage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing features few (two or fewer) sentences with with three or more prepositional phrases that negatively influence the writing's clarity. ▶ Other sentences in the writing are well structured with limited prepositional phrases. ▶ Additional revisions could limit prepositional phrase usage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing features sentences with three or more prepositional phrases. The unnecessary phrases negatively influence the writing's clarity. ▶ Additional revisions could significantly limit prepositional phrase usage.

GENRE

EXPOSITORY: Cause & Effect/Problem & Solution			
Definition		Objective	
Provides an objective and thorough summary of some topic. Coverage, while complete, is often more general than specific in nature with only enough detail to validate a fact.		With teacher prompting, student writes a cohesive (unified and complete) and coherent (clear and logical) five-paragraph informative report based on content gathered from multiple (i.e., three or more) resources.	
Rubric			
EXEMPLARY	PROFICIENT	ADEQUATE	NOT YET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing features a cohesive (unified and complete) and coherent (clear and logical) five-paragraph informative report based on content gathered from multiple (i.e., three or more) resources. ▶ Writing features well-chosen details that give the reader a good understanding of the topic. ▶ Writing flows well with smooth transitions between paragraphs. ▶ Writing features reader-friendly elements, such as explanations that compare unknown details with things the reader probably does know. For example, "The bike's derailleur is like a chute that guides the chain from one chainring to another." ▶ Additional revisions may minimally improve the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing features a cohesive (unified and complete) and coherent (clear and logical) five-paragraph informative report based on content gathered from multiple (i.e., three or more) resources. ▶ Writing features well-chosen details that give the reader a good understanding of the topic. ▶ Writing flows well with smooth transitions between paragraphs. ▶ Additional revisions could improve the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing features a cohesive (unified and complete) and coherent (clear and logical) five-paragraph informative report based on content gathered from multiple (i.e., three or more) resources. ▶ Additional revisions could improve the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing fails to present a cohesive (unified and complete) and coherent (clear and logical) five-paragraph informative report based on content gathered from multiple (i.e., three or more) resources. ▶ Additional revisions could significantly improve the text

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gradeunit
FOURREVISION
SKILLSPrepositional
Phrases

GENRE

Expository:
Informative
Report

PRACTICE TEXT

Maps of the world show oceans and seas surrounding groups of islands and land, the largest of which are the seven continents in their position on Earth. Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia, and Antarctica each have special features that make them unique and interesting to study.¹ For example, the highest mountain in the world stands tall in Asia, which is the largest of the continents. The longest river in the world winds through the continent of Africa, and the largest waterfall rushes over a cliff on the continent of South America.² No two continents are exactly alike and each one is home to special types of climates, animals, and plants.

Experts determine climate types by researching extensive weather history for generalizations about the kind of weather in an area.³ Climates on the continents range from extremely cold in Antarctica to tropical and rainy in parts of South America, to dry and desert-like in parts of Africa.⁴ Many different climates can exist among the countries within a single continent; however, North America is the only continent that has every kind of climate.⁵ For example, Arizona is hot and dry year-round, Florida is rainy and warm, and parts of Canada and Alaska are freezing for most of the year.

A continent's climate plays a large part in determining which plants and animals will thrive on it in their habitat. It takes a special kind of animal to face polar weather, so it is no wonder that animals in Antarctica, like the Emperor Penguin, have built-in protection against the climate such as waterproof feathers and extra layers of fat.⁶ Some animals are so well suited to the conditions on their continent that they don't live anywhere else on the planet. Animals that can only be found in one area are called "endemic."⁷ For example, nearly half of the more than 800 species of birds on the continent of Australia⁸ can't be found anywhere else in the world.⁹ The lyrebird is a remarkable example of an Australia-only bird since it can perfectly imitate the sounds it hears such as a tractor starting, a dog barking, or a baby crying.¹⁰ Each continent has its share of fascinating creatures and plants that don't live or grow anywhere else.

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9. "threatened species and ecological communities." Australian Government: Department of the Water, Environment, Water, Heritage, and the Arts. Retrieved 31 January 2009 from <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/>
10. "birds." Birds Australia. Retrieved 30 January 2009 from <http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/birds/birds.html>

A POSSIBLE REVISION

This is not THE correct revision, but one possibility. Accept any justifiable revisions.

World maps show oceans and seas surrounding groups of islands and land, the largest of which are the seven continents. Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia, and Antarctica each have special features that make them unique and interesting to study. For example, the world's highest mountain stands tall in Asia, which is the largest continent. The world's longest river winds through Africa and the largest waterfall rushes over a South American cliff. No two continents are exactly alike and each one is home to special types of climates, animals, and plants.

Experts determine climate types by looking at weather data for many years for generalizations about an area's weather. Climates on the continents range from extremely cold in Antarctica to tropical and rainy South American areas, to dry and desert-like in parts of Africa. Many different climates can exist within a single continent; however, North America is the only continent that has every kind of climate. For example, Arizona is hot and dry year-round, Florida is rainy and warm, and parts of Canada and Alaska are freezing for most of the year.

A continent's climate plays a large part in determining which plants and animals will thrive on it. It takes a special animal to face polar weather, so it is no wonder that Antarctic animals such as the Emperor Penguin have built-in protection against the climate like waterproof feathers and extra layers of fat." Some animals are so well suited to the conditions on their continent that they don't live anywhere else. Animals that can only be found in one area are called "endemic." For example, nearly half of Australia's more than 800 species of birds can't be found anywhere else in the world. The lyrebird is a remarkable example of an Australia-only bird since it can perfectly imitate the sounds it hears such as a tractor starting, a dog barking, or a baby crying. Each continent has its share of fascinating creatures and plants that don't live or grow anywhere else.

