

*Felix Varela High School
10th grade
Summer Writing Packet
2012-2013*



Student Name: _____

Writing Self-Survey

1. What is the difference between persuasive and expository writing? Explain.

2. What does an essay have to have?

3. What is the most difficult part of writing an essay?



Verbs are action words. Anything you can do is a verb. Examples of verbs include: *create, perform, dance, think, walk, have, make, cook, and understand.*



Circle the verbs in the following passage:

I like to write. That is how I best express myself when I am unable to talk about something. Sometimes I have a difficult time with essays, but I hope to improve this year. If I try, I know I will become a great writer.

ABC Brainstorming

Think about some of your favorite things to do. Then, complete the following table by writing a verb for each letter of the alphabet. For example, in the “R” box, you could write “Run.”

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X, Y, Z

Identifying and Correcting Verbs

Circle the verb in each of the following sentences.

1. Many Americans opposed King George's laws.
2. Sam Adams and John Hancock were two famous patriots.
3. Henry's father sold various items in his shop.
4. General Thomas Gage was the new royal governor.
5. In June of 1774, King George closed the harbor.
6. The harbor's closing stopped trade.
7. Henry walked by Province House on his way to school.
8. Only King George's ships sailed out of the harbor.
9. Henry's father drew the maps.
10. King George's top general lived in Province House.

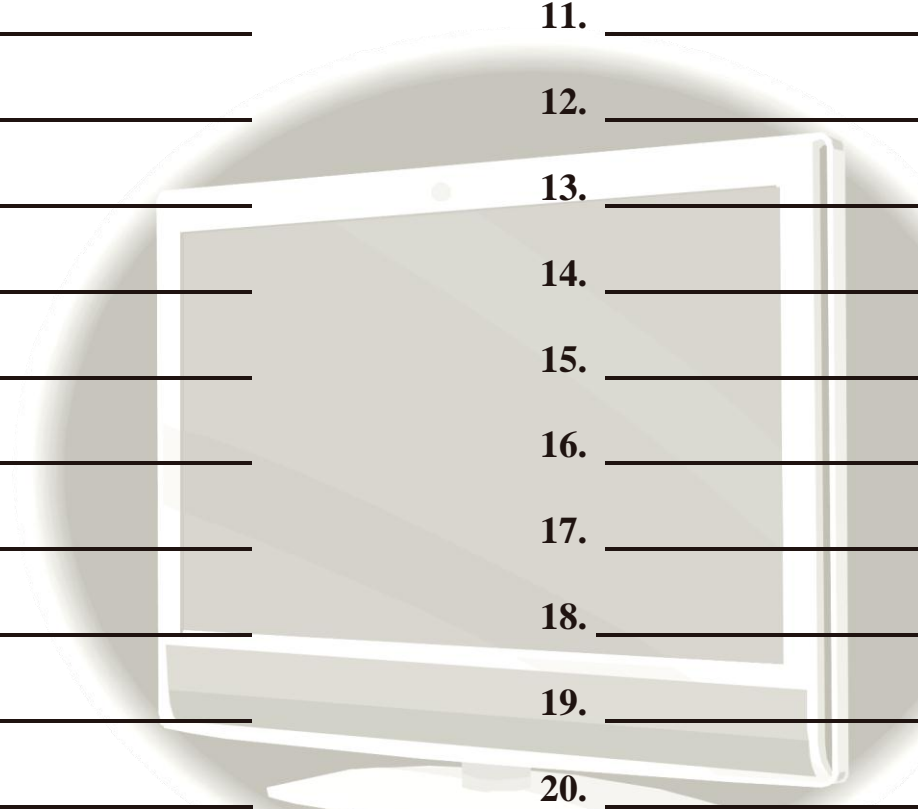
Circle the verb in each of the following sentences. Then, fix the verb so it is grammatically correct.

1. Rebels fights for independence. **Correction: Fight**
2. The British troops destroys the children's snow forts.
3. Henry's father make a sled for Henry.
4. The soldiers breaks the ice in the pond.
5. Henry's brothers walks to school with Henry.
6. General Gage help the children.
7. King George punish the colonists.
8. The children pulls their sleds through the snow.

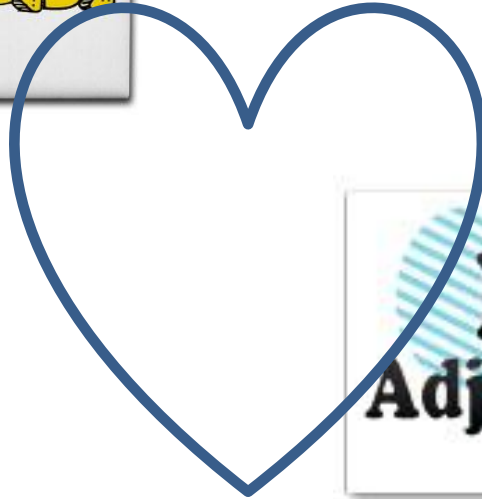
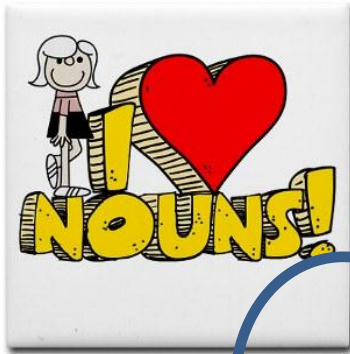
Verbs in Television

While watching your favorite 30-minute comedy show, write a list of 20 verbs that you see the actors doing. Then, write a paragraph summarizing the plot (or storyline) of the episode.

Name of Show: _____

- 
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____
 11. _____
 12. _____
 13. _____
 14. _____
 15. _____
 16. _____
 17. _____
 18. _____
 19. _____
 20. _____

Summary: _____



Read

Nouns are people, places, things and ideas. Some examples are: *students, Nancy, school, Felix Varela High School, fish, chicken, love, and hope.*

Adjectives are words that describe nouns. Adjectives can tell how many, what kind, and emotions. Examples: *Proud teachers, ecstatic students, ninth grade, thirteen hippos, unbelievable achievement.*

Task

Highlight the adjectives and underline the nouns.

I had an uneventful summer. Even though the days were bright and sunny, I spent a great deal of time at home. My friends saw the sandy beaches of South Florida, but I stayed home, bored and alone.

ABC Brainstorming

Think about an **OUTDOOR, SUMMER** activity. Then, describe that activity by writing an adjective for each letter of the alphabet in the table below. For example, in the “**R**” box, you could write “**Relaxing.**”

Activity: _____

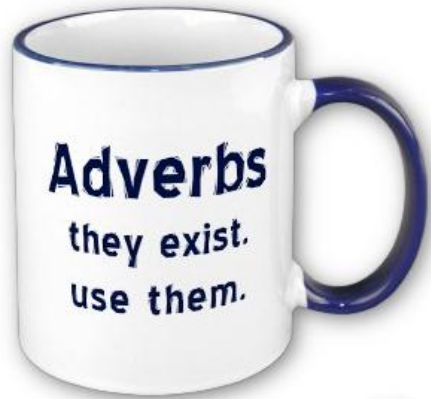
A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X, Y, Z

Summary: _____

More Adjectives: How Well Do You Know Me?

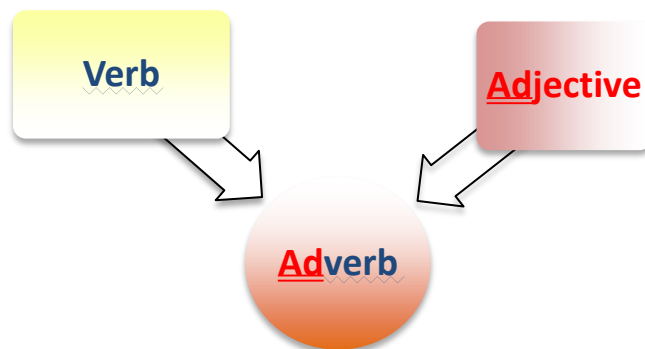
Think about somebody close to you. Be honest...really honest. Time yourself for 7 minutes and see if you can come up with 50 words to describe that person's appearance and personality. Ready? Go!

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 18. _____ | 35. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 19. _____ | 36. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 20. _____ | 37. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 21. _____ | 38. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 22. _____ | 39. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 23. _____ | 40. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 24. _____ | 41. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 25. _____ | 42. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 26. _____ | 43. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 27. _____ | 44. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 28. _____ | 45. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 29. _____ | 46. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 30. _____ | 47. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 31. _____ | 48. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 32. _____ | 49. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 33. _____ | 50. _____ |
| 17. _____ | 34. _____ | |



Read

Adverbs can be tricky because they describe verbs AND adjectives. **Oftentimes, adverbs end in -ly, but not always.** Some examples of adverbs are: *well, suddenly, correctly, friendly, and very.*



Task

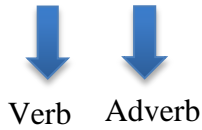
Put a box around the adverbs.

Sometimes, I talk loudly. I am especially loud when I am with friends. My mom always has to tell me to speak quietly. My friends are also extremely loud. When we are together, my mom screams hysterically!

Adverbs: Explanation and Practice

Notice that an adverb describes either adjectives or verbs.

The bull slept noisily beside the river.



What did the bull do? Slept—that’s the verb. *How* did he do it? Noisily—that’s the *adverb*.

I get really mad when they lose.



What am I like when they lose? Mad—that’s an adjective. *How* mad? Really (really) mad. “Really” describes how mad...so it is an *adverb*.

Remember, sometimes adverbs end in –ly, though not always.

Box the adverb in each sentence.

1. Marcella, deposit the money safely in the most powerful vault.
2. Running quickly for the endzone, the widely recruited fullback tripped.
3. She pushed the most talented students so they would do the assignment quickly.
4. The author was quite annoyed when she determined that the publisher was very dishonest.
5. He will play quietly.
6. After she looked carefully in both directions, Barbara sprinted across.
7. The CEO feels unusually tense today.

A Picture Is Worth...an Adverb!

Carefully examine each of the following pictures. Then, write at least two adverbs under EACH picture. The words you select must describe the action in the photographs.

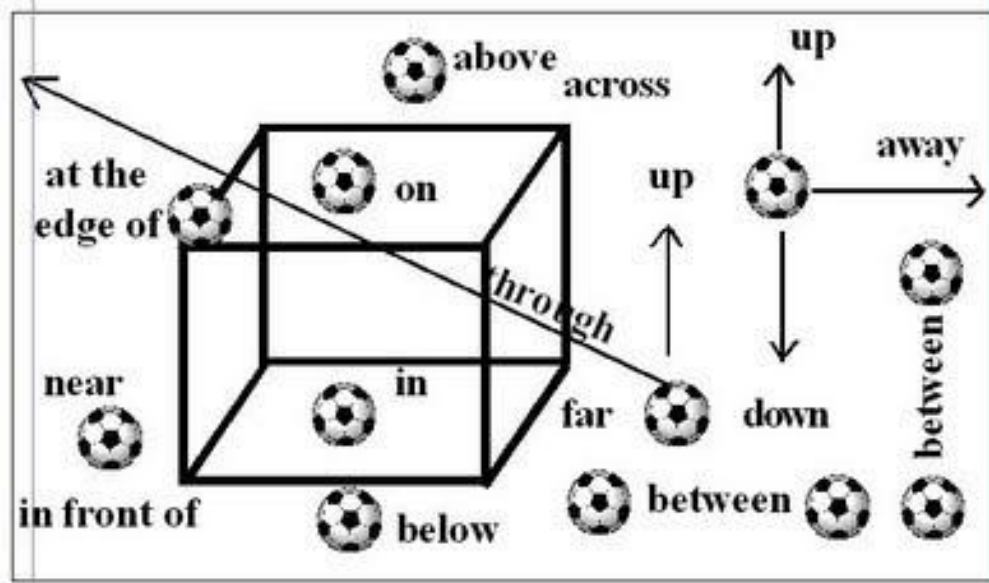








PREPOSITIONS



Prepositions don't have concrete definitions. They are used to tell the relationship between words. Examples: *under*, *around*, *on*, *with*, and *during*. A prepositional phrase is a phrase that starts with a preposition and shows the relationship between words.

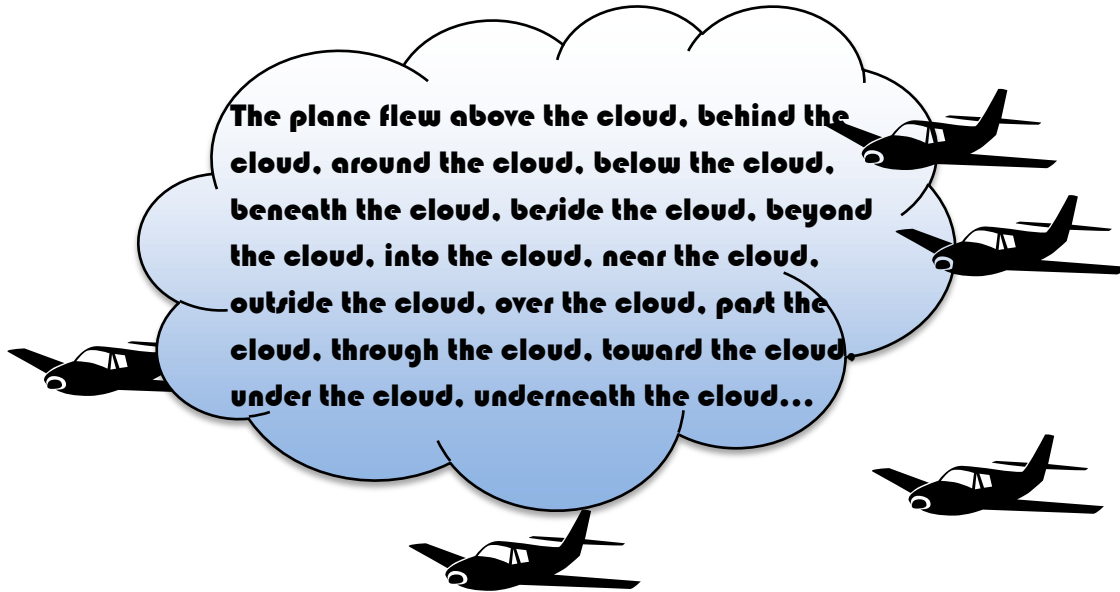


Place a ~~strickethrough~~ over the prepositional phrases below.

Around the corner from my house, there is a store. I go almost every day, except when I don't. In the store, there are snacks, drinks and first-aid products available. Behind the register, there is an older woman who always remembers my name. Without her, the store wouldn't be the same.

Prepositions

Many times, you can remember prepositions by testing if the word is something an airplane can do to a cloud.



Common Prepositions

about	behind	except	on	toward
above	below	for	out	under
across	beneath	from	outside	underneath
after	beside	in	over	until
against	between	inside	past	up
along	beyond	into	since	upon
among	by	like	through	via
around	despite	near	throughout	with
at	down	of	to	within
before	during	off	toward	without

Prepositional Phrase Openers

One way to make your writing better is to create more complex sentences by using prepositional phrases. It is much easier than it sounds.

First, you pick a preposition from the table. Then, you put it at the beginning of a sentence with a phrase to match. *Voila!* You just made your sentence better.

Example:

Plain sentence: The girl ran to her house.

Better sentence: Since the girl had important news for her mom, she ran to her house.

Plain sentence: I went to my grandmother's house for vacation.

Better sentence: During summer vacation, I went to my grandmother's house.

Now you try...

For each plain sentence below, create a prepositional phrase using words from the list provided. Do not use the same preposition more than once.

1. I went to the beach.

2. The ball bounced on the court.

3. My cell phone rang.

4. I bought new school supplies.

Final Practice: Putting It All Together

On this page, attach an article from a newspaper, a magazine, or the Internet. Then, underline all the nouns, highlight all the adjectives, circle the verbs, box the adverbs, and place a strikethrough over the prepositions.