**Let’s go to COMMA CAMP**

**and other fun places in the World of Grammar!**

**Prepositions are hard for everybody.**

**There are eight types of prepositions.** [**Want more?**](http://www.writeawriting.com/grammar/prepositions-types-examples/)

**And some good news:**

**English is an Indo-European language (well, mostly)**

**Sooooooo…**

**When you hear that it’s a Terrible Grammar Crime to end a sentence with a preposition, remember what Winston Churchill said:**

**This is a rule up with which I will not put.**

**Which which is that?**

**­Use “that” with no comma when the dependent clause is essential to the meaning of the sentence.**

**Use “which” with a comma when the dependent clause is relevant but not essential.**

**The Mustang, which was popular even in its first year, proved to be one of Ford’s great success stories.**

**The notion that free education negatively impacts work ethic is completely misguided.**

**Calming down about commas**

1. **After introductory elements**
2. **Between two main clauses separated by a coordinating conjunction**
3. **To set off non-essential elements**
4. **After the next-to-the-last item in a series**
5. **To prevent misreading**

**First, this paper discusses the impact of digital media on established network television.**

**Because of Apple, design is as important as function.**

**Because of the severity and length of the economic recession, many once-thriving companies struggled to survive.**

**When the going gets tough, the tough get going.**

**Pepsi is more popular in the States, but Coke leads in European markets.**

**Demonstrations in Catalon indicate discontent with the current system and signal clearly that change is on the way.**

**Commas can even save lives.**

**Let’s eat, Grandma!**

**Let’s eat Grandma!**

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**Why I love the Oxford comma:**

**The reindeer sat on the twins, Noora and Saara.**

**The dreaded comma splice**

**The future is in your hands, what you decide will impact many generations to come.**

**Everyone knows that Selena Gomez is in the hospital again, however, no one knows exactly what is wrong.**

**Although, But, and However: so close yet so far away.**

**Each is a contrast word, but they are different parts of speech and have different functions. So they can’t always be used interchangeably.**

* **Although most students dread Academic Writing, most do well in the course.**
* **I really dreaded academic writing. Although, the first week went better than I’d anticipated.**
* **Donald Trump has managed to stay on script during most of his Asian tour; however, that could change at any minute.**

**Make your voice heard!**

**I ate the squeaky cheese.**

**The squeaky cheese was eaten by me.**

**In ACTIVE VOICE, the subject *performs* the action.**

**In PASSIVE VOICE, the subject *receives* the action.**

**Think about readability:**

**12**

**17**

**24**

**Now look at a sentence like this:**

**For the opponents of the Affordable Care Act, which had met with determined resistance for nearly three years, the chaos and delays that accompanied the release of the website to the public on November 1, 2013, were met with responses that ranged from derisive “I told you so’s” to extreme relief although it was pointed out by technology experts that new releases are often impacted by bugs when no beta testing is done.**

**And in active voice:**

**Many opponents of the Affordable Care Act were gleeful when, after three years of resistance to the legislation, software bugs led to chaos and delays. Technology experts pointed out that the software did not undergo beta testing, which eliminates bugs. But opponents still said, “We told you so!”**

**Let’s all just get along: AGREEMENT**

1. **Subject-verb (must agree in number)**

**Here’s a tricky one:**

**The constant repetition of the saws, hammers, and drills is driving me crazy.**

1. **Pronoun-antecedent agreement. Big news: they no longer have to agree in number and gender.**

**A doctor has a lot to remember. He/she must always carry his/her stethoscope, for example.**

**Doctors have a lot to remember. They must always carry their stethoscopes, for example.**

**Dr. Who should bring their stethoscope.**

**And it’s very respectful of the pronouns that an individual prefers.** [**Want more?**](http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34901704)