Lesson 69
Usage: *beside* to *less*

beside, besides *Beside* means "next to." *Besides* means "in addition to."

The hammer was lying **beside** the toolbox.
Besides carrots, the baby likes peas.

between, among Use *between* for two people or things. Use *among* when talking about groups of three or more.

Echo Avenue is **between** Dancer and Foothill.   It was flying **among** the stars.

bring, take *Bring* means "to carry from a distant place to a closer one." *Take* means "to carry from a nearby place to a distant one."

Bring dessert to the family dinner.   **Take** this letter to the post office.

can, may *Can* indicates ability. *May* expresses permission or possibility.

We **can** finish this Monday.   You **may** work on this inside.   It **may** rain.

choose, chose *Choose* means "to select." *Chose* is the past tense of *choose* and means "selected."

Choose your friends wisely.   Yana **chose** to participate in the debate.

fewer, less Use *fewer* with nouns that can be counted. Use *less* with nouns that cannot be counted.

There were **fewer** hot days this summer.   Traffic is **less** congested tonight.

▶ Exercise 1 Write *C* for correct or *I* for incorrect to indicate whether the word in italics is used correctly.

___C___   Migration *can* be an interesting topic.

_____ 1. You probably know that birds are *among* the many animals that migrate.

_____ 2. Some fish migrate *between* fresh and salt water during their lives.

_____ 3. Salmon *choose* to live at sea but migrate to fresh water for breeding.

_____ 4. The European eel lives in fresh water but *brings* to the sea to breed, spawn, and hatch.

_____ 5. Humpback whales spend summers in polar oceans and in winter *may* move to tropical waters.

_____ 6. Some land mammals *may* also migrate.

Usage

_____ **7.** The caribou of Alaska move *among* the tundra and the boreal forest.

_____ **8.** Food is available in the tundra during summer, but when the winter *brings* deep snow, the caribou move south.

_____ **9.** Some insects also move long distances in search of *less* snow.

_____ **10.** In the fall, the North American monarch butterfly *chooses* groves in California, Florida, or Mexico.

_____ **11.** A migrating animal *may* expend much energy if the weather is bad.

_____ **12.** Migrating birds cannot *bring* their young to the new habitat when they go unless the young birds are strong fliers.

_____ **13.** *Among* some species the sun, the moon, and the stars are used for navigation.

_____ **14.** Others rely on landscape features, such as rivers or mountain ranges, to *take* them to their distant destinations.

_____ **15.** *Beside* these travel aids, some animals are guided by changes in temperature, moisture, and wind direction.

▶ Exercise 2 **Underline the word in parentheses that best completes each sentence.**

There are other interesting behaviors of animals (beside, besides) migration.

1. (Among, Between) some of these special behaviors is hibernation.

2. You (can, may) study hibernation for your project if you like.

3. Animals do not (choose, chose) to reach this inactive, sleeplike state on their own.

4. (Beside, Besides) the animal's body temperature being lower than normal, its heartbeat and breathing slow down.

5. Because an animal in this state needs (fewer, less) energy to stay alive, it can live off fat stored in its body.

6. A hibernating animal (can, may) more easily survive a harsh winter when food is scarce.

7. (Among, Between) warm-blooded hibernators are such birds as nighthawks and swifts.

8. (Beside, Besides) these birds, we find such mammals as bats, chipmunks, hedgehogs, and marmots (among, between) those creatures that hibernate.

Usage