

The *Odyssey*, Part 2 by Homer

Build Grammar Skills: Usage: *Among* and *Between*

The prepositions **among** and **between** are often confused because they are similar in meaning. Use *among* when referring to three or more items. Use *between* when you are referring to two items. Look at Homer's use of *among* and *between* in these lines from the *Odyssey*.

Eumaeus crossed the court and went straight forward
Into the megaron *among* the suitors:
. . . he draws *between* his thumb and forefinger
a sweet new string upon a peg . . .

A. Practice: Circle the word in parentheses that correctly completes the sentence.

1. Odysseus tells Telemachus that (between/among) Zeus and Athena, they need no more help.
2. Odysseus plans to find (between/among) the people in the palace those who have remained loyal to him.
3. Disguised as a beggar, Odysseus tells Penelope that her husband will return some time (between/among) this night and the next.
4. Penelope asks Odysseus that there be no anger (between/among) them.
5. Athena commands that there be peace (between/among) Odysseus and the relatives of the slain suitors.
6. What do you think will happen to the relationship (between/among) Odysseus and his wife now that they have been reunited?

B. Writing Application: Complete the following sentences about the *Odyssey*, using either *among* or *between*.

1. In ancient Greece, stories were passed around
2. In the *Odyssey*, there is a big fight

3. There is a strong relationship
4. Penelope has grown very weary of living