

ARTICLES A/AN/THE

indefinite and definite articles

'A/AN'

indefinite article

#1 Singular countable nouns

*She works in **an** office.*

*He hasn't got **a** dog.*

#2 Mentioned for the first time

*I saw **an** old woman with **a** dog.*

#3 'To be' + what kind of person or thing somebody/something is

*Sarah is **an** artist.*

*Hockey is **a** game.*

#4 Meaning 'one'

*Can I have **an** orange?*

#5 Frequency, rates, speeds

*I work 5 hours **a** day and study three times **a** week.*

*The rent is 500€ **a** month.*

*We were driving at 50 km **an** hour.*

#6 What a/such a + singular countable noun

*What **a** fantastic idea!*

*You are such **a** good friend!*

* AN - used before a vowel sound A/E/I/O/U

*Does she want **a** banana or **an** apple?*

Exceptions:

***an** hour, **a** university, **a** European* - depends on sound, not spelling (a consonant or a vowel sound)

*She is **an** honest person.*

'THE'

definite article

#1 Unique nouns

the sun, the earth, the sky, the moon, the Universe

#2 Something already mentioned

I saw a dog. The dog was barking loudly.

#3 The talk is about someone/something clear or it becomes specific with details after it

'Where are the kids?' 'They're in the garden.'

The president of the company gave a speech.

I sat on the chair in the corner.

I saw the man who tried to kiss me.

#4 Nouns of places visited commonly

the gym, the supermarket, the bank, the station, the cinema, the doctor, the park

#5 Morning, Afternoon, Evening

in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening (BUT at night)

#6 Nationalities (but NOT languages)

the English, the Russian, the Estonian (I speak English.)

#7 Plural names of countries including 'State' / 'Republic' / 'Kingdom' or plural names of families

the US (the United States), the UK (the United Kingdom), the Philippines, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic

The Smiths are coming to dinner.

#8 Certain geographical locations - deserts, mountain ranges, oceans, seas, rivers and canals (BUT not lakes)

They crossed the Sahara Desert. They sailed across the Atlantic Ocean.

the Mediterranean, the Amazon, the Panama canal (BUT lake Victoria)

#9 Proper nouns when referring to famous buildings, works of art, organisations or names of newspapers

I visited the Eiffel Tower.

I read the New York Times daily.

#10 Superlative adjectives and adjectives to refer to a whole group of people

the best, the oldest, the most beautiful

She is the smartest person in the room.

The rich should help the poor.

#11 Musical instruments

(play) the violin, the piano, the flute, the guitar

#12 HOME, WORK, SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY, CHURCH, HOSPITAL, PRISON - reference is to the object or building in general

You found the keys under the bed.

She had to buy lunch at the work.

We're going to the school to pick up the kids.

The university has a beautiful campus.

I met my friend at the church.

She went to the hospital to visit him.

He went to the prison to repair the central heating.

NO ARTICLES

zero article

#1 Uncountable nouns

Can you read music? Water is essential for life.

Love and health are more important than money.

#2 With TV when used as a broadcasting service (but NOT as an appliance)

I saw it on TV. I don't watch TV. (Turn off the TV. I've bought a new TV.)

#3 General plural nouns

I was reading books all afternoon.

I love music. (music in general) The party was great, I loved the music. (specific music)

#4 Proper nouns and most names of places

names of people (John, Susan)

shops (Zara, Tesco)

streets (Victoria Road, Elm Street)

continents (Europe, Africa)

countries (Spain, China)

cities or towns (Tallinn, Rome, Bangkok)

single mountains (Mount Everest, Annapurna)

#5 Names of meals

breakfast, brunch, lunch, supper, dinner

#6 Years, months and days of the week

I think 2020 was an amazing year.

It may snow in March.

Sunday is my favourite day of the week.

#7 Name + number

She is in room 15.

Go to page 50.

#8 Next and last + time expression (before or after now)

The meeting was last week.

Last year we spent three weeks in London. The last week in London was one of the best in my life.

#9 Possessives

This is dog's food.

#10 This/That/These/Those

I don't like those flowers.

#11 Sports/Games

swimming, golf, ice hockey, tennis

#12 HOME, WORK, SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY, CHURCH, HOSPITAL, PRISON - reference is to the main purpose for which they exist

You have been in bed all morning. ⇒ sleeping or resting

She went to work late to finish the presentation. ⇒ working

They aren't at school this morning. ⇒ learning

I learnt English at university. ⇒ studying

They attend church every Sunday to participate in the community services. ⇒ praying

She is still in hospital. ⇒ hospitalised, as a patient

He was sent to prison for armed robbery. ⇒ imprisoned

TASK 1

Choose the correct option for each sentence.

1. I've never met ___ person like her before.
A. a
B. an
C. the
D. Ø
2. You need ___ doctor.
A. a
B. an
C. the
D. Ø
3. My grandparents planted ___ apple tree in our family garden.
A. a
B. an
C. the
D. Ø
4. Nikita turned on ___ lamp.
A. A
B. An
C. The
D. Ø
5. I used to play ___ piano when I was younger.
A. a
B. an
C. the
D. Ø
6. He can't become ___ professional basketball player, because he is rather short.
A. a
B. an
C. the
D. Ø
7. His father is ___ careful driver.
A. a
B. an
C. the
D. Ø
8. All they needed was to figure out ___ game strategy.
A. a
B. an
C. the
D. Ø
9. I want to become ___ engineer after I graduate.
A. a
B. an
C. the
D. Ø

10. Is there ___ good bookshop nearby?

- A. a
- B. an
- C. the
- D. Ø

TASK 2

Insert "a/an", "the" or no article (Ø) where necessary.

1. ___ orange ___ day gives ___ daily amount of vitamin C.
2. It takes ___ hour to get to ___ station on foot.
3. She is ___ most beautiful woman in ___ world.
4. Mom, where is ___ dog? I want to take him to ___ park.
5. ___ horse is ___ animal.
6. I like ___ cakes, I just don't like ___ cake you make.
7. ___ single match could set fire to ___ large building.
8. ___ students should listen to their teacher, but ___ students in my class never listen.
9. Everyone in ___ company got ___ mobile phone.
10. We should deposit this ___ money in ___ bank.

TASK 3

Insert "a/an", "the" or no article (Ø) where necessary.

1. My favourite day is ___ Sunday, and ___ 2010 was my favourite ___ year.
2. Alex has ___ uncle who works in ___ Canada, but he is ___ European.
3. We are going to fly from ___ USA to ___ Cairo.
4. Could you pick up ___ kids today? I'm going to be at ___ work until evening.
5. ___ last book turned out to be ___ fascinating reading.
6. She bought ___ expensive bracelet at ___ Harrods.
7. It is not difficult to grow ___ flowers as long as you provide them with ___ plenty of water.
8. He began life as ___ engineer, but he works in ___ IT now.
9. ___ boys were still playing ___ basketball in ___ street.
10. Had your husband repaired ___ window before he left for ___ work?

TASK 4

Insert "a/an", "the" or no article (Ø) where necessary in the following short dialogues.

1. - I don't like ___ French.
- Well, you don't like ___ languages in general.
2. - Shall we go on ___ picnic today? ___ sun is very warm.
- I don't like ___ picnics.
3. - Have you tried ___ tea Tim brought?
- No, I never drink ___ tea.
4. - He's ___ fan of Manchester United.
- I don't understand, how he can like ___ football so much.
5. - I'm going to ___ school today to talk to ___ Miranda's teacher.
- If you pass by ___ post office, could you bring me ___ envelope?

6. - Can you turn off ___ light and close ___ door, please?
- Why? It's only eight o'clock in ___ evening.
7. - I need ___ knife, can you give me one?
- You can use ___ knife on ___ kitchen top.
8. - What did you eat for ___ dinner?
- I ate ___ soup that was left from yesterday.
9. - She studies at ___ university. She is ___ student of tourism management.
- Does she need ___ laptop for her assignment?
10. - There was this ___ strange woman sitting next to me on ___ bus...
- Listen, you should just buy ___ car already!

TASK 5

Each sentence contains at least one mistake related to the use of articles. Find and correct the errors.

1. I'm planning to visit the France next summer. _____
2. He is a best student in the class. _____
3. An internet has revolutionized how we communicate. _____
4. We live in a Netherlands. _____
5. The oxygen is necessary for all life forms. _____
6. They travelled by a train to get there. _____
7. My brother is an engineer and a doctor. _____
8. The lions are often referred to as the kings of the jungle. _____
9. A honesty is important in any relationship. _____
10. She is learning the Japanese. _____

TASK 6

Decide if the sentences are correct or incorrect. Correct the incorrect ones.

- | 1. I saw the movie last night, and movie was incredible. | + <input type="checkbox"/> | - <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2. Mount Everest is a highest mountain in the world. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. He has an unique perspective on a issue. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Can you give me a bit of advice on the project I'm working on? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Amazon River flows through South America. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. He works as a lawyer in a big city. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Continent was originally colonised by English. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. She travelled to United Kingdom last summer for the conference. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. The earth is not a star, but a planet. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. A technology has changed a way we live our lives. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

TASK 7

Rewrite the following sentences, correcting any mistakes in the use of articles.

1. I read a fascinating article on the climate change.
2. He has an incredible sense of the humour.

3. They saw the beautiful sunset while on a beach in Hawaii.

4. We bought an umbrella because the rain was heavy.

5. She's the only person in a class who speaks English fluently.

6. The elephants are endangered animals.

7. Nile is a longest river in world.

8. We are planning to go on trip to Alps.

9. The technology is changing a world every day.

10. They stopped at a hotel because they needed rest.

TASK 8

Insert "a/an", "the" or no article (Ø) where necessary in the following dialogues.

1.

- Please, read ¹ text on ² page 15 and take ³ notes.

- Teacher, did you know that ⁴ sun is nearly 150 million kilometres away from ⁵ earth and is getting farther away over time?

- Christopher, this is not ⁶ geography lesson. I'm ⁷ English teacher.

- Well, before we freeze I'd like to cross ⁸ Atlantic on ⁹ cruise.

- That is ¹⁰ valid point, but, Christopher, please, start reading and writing down ¹¹ notes.

- I still need ¹² pen for that, because ¹³ pen you lent me doesn't work.

2.

- "Excuse me, how can I get to ¹ university, please?"

- It's just down ² road, darling.

- Fascinating, I thought not many pupils go to ³ university after they leave ⁴ school nowadays.

- Oh, Zoya, he must be about 15 - he's still at ⁵ school.

- You are right! Probably some kind of ⁶ school excursion program.

3.

- "Everyone attending ¹ prison for ² visit must book in at ³ visitor centre."

- How long has your father-in-law been in ⁴ prison?

- That isn't my father-in-law - it's ⁵ Gregory's.

- Do you know why this happened to him? Was he ⁶ driver?

- After ⁷ car accident, ⁸ injured people were taken to ⁹ hospital, but not everyone made it.

- I know, my cousin went to ¹⁰ hospital to visit his friend. That is exactly why you don't drink and drive.

4.

- Recently I've seen ¹ interesting organ in ² church.

- My grandmother lives in ³ Rome and she goes to ⁴ church every ⁵ Sunday. They have ⁶ breath-taking organ there.

- Rome is ⁷ ancient city, it wouldn't come as ⁸ surprise. I would love to have my own place there one day.

- ⁹ houses are very expensive there, especially in ¹⁰ city centre.

5.

- We had ¹ good weather while we were on holiday. We stayed outside all the time.

- Were there any activities provided by ² animators?

- Loads! All sorts of games and sports from ³ archery to ⁴ tennis.

- I think ⁵ tennis is ⁶ very intense game, in ⁷ good way, and ⁸ uniform can be nifty.
- It's ⁹ useful way for maintaining health, strength and agility.
- I read that it can also improve mental alertness, critical and tactical thinking by making connections in ¹⁰ brain.

TASK 9

Insert "a/an", "the" or no article (Ø) where necessary in the following text.

Last weekend me and my partner went to ¹ museum. We go there at least once ² year. Before ³ alarm clock went off, ⁴ dogs were already up and barking in ⁵ living room. It is worth to mention, that they are never up on ⁶ Monday mornings when I have to go to ⁷ work early. Anyway, we had ⁸ breakfast very quickly and went out. It was ⁹ sunny day, and obviously, we all love ¹⁰ sunny days, and even more when we don't have to go to ¹¹ work.

We got into ¹² taxi and I told ¹³ taxi driver where we were going. All was perfect, until we realised that ¹⁴ traffic was horrible that day. We immediately got stuck in ¹⁵ traffic jam. We asked ¹⁶ taxi driver if he knew what was happening, but he had no idea. Then, we heard on ¹⁷ radio that there had been ¹⁸ accident a few blocks ahead of us. We had run out of luck. Eventually, after two hours in traffic and ¹⁹ very expensive taxi fare, we were able to see ²⁰ exhibition.

TASK 10

Insert "a/an", "the" or no article (Ø) where necessary in the following text.

Yesterday I bought ¹ book and ² some flowers for Linda, but I lost ³ book on my way to her house. When I arrived, they were having ⁴ dinner. Linda hugged me and pronounced to everyone: "This is my best friend, ⁵ Steve!". "Are you hungry, Steve? I will get you ⁶ ice-cream." - asked Linda's aunt. Her aunt is ⁷ writer, she writes ⁸ books. She was wearing ⁹ leather jacket and ¹⁰ belt. Her jacket looked very expensive and ¹¹ belt was huge. Quite intimidating, but she sounded nice.

After ¹² dessert we wanted to watch ¹³ TV, but there wasn't one in ¹⁴ house, so we just listened to ¹⁵ radio. "Why don't we go to ¹⁶ cinema to watch ¹⁷ film?" - I suggested. "Have you heard about this new cinema place?" - excitedly asked Linda. "You guys have enough time to get to ¹⁸ opening." - her uncle Joe added. "You should not go out in ¹⁹ heavy rain without ²⁰ umbrella. Let uncle Joe give you a ride." - insisted Linda's aunt. "Helicopter parenting" - mocked Linda quietly and we headed out.

At the cinema's grand opening event there was ²¹ lottery. Linda successfully answered all ²² questions and won. Upon opening the bag presented to her by ²³ cinema manager, she yelled, "Oh my days! This is ²⁴ one I mentioned to you, Steve, look!" To my surprise, it turned out to be ²⁵ very same book I had bought for Linda yesterday, but offhandedly lost on my way to her.

TASK 11

Identify and correct the incorrect usage of articles in the following paragraph.

Last year, I travelled to the Italy and the Greece for vacation. It was a incredible experience. We stayed in the hotel near the Acropolis in Athens and visited the museums filled with ancient artefacts. In Italy, we had the amazing pasta in Rome and saw a Colosseum. An weather was perfect throughout the trip, and we met a wonderful people who made the trip even better.

TASK 12

Write a short story (100-200 words) describing a day in the life of an imaginary character. Focus on using articles ("a/an", "the" and Ø) correctly throughout your writing. Underline all the articles used.

- ✓ Use at least 10 examples of each type of article (a/an, the and Ø).
- ✓ Include a mix of singular and plural nouns.
- ✓ Pay attention to when no article is needed.



"A Day in the Life"

This morning, he woke up to the sound of the alarm clock buzzing loudly. He looked out of the window and saw an unusual sight for this time of year... _____
