1. **Articles**
   1. **The Indefinite Article a/an**

• **a** (or **an**) is used with countable nouns to indicate one. I bought **a** book yesterday. I saw **an** elephant.

• **a** is not used before a plural noun (I saw **~~an~~** elephants).

• **a** is not used before uncountable nouns (I bought **~~an~~** oil from the supermarket).

**Practice**

Write **a**, **an**, or **nothing** to complete these sentences.

1 I'd like ..**a**.. cup of coffee, please.

2 He asked me for ..**-**.. money.

3 I drank… glass of water.

4 They wanted … information about your last trip.

5 I'd like … apple and …banana, please.

6 Have you got … umbrella?

7 Do you prefer… red cars or … black ones?

8 We revised… grammar lessons all afternoon yesterday.

9 I asked for … bread, … cheese and ... coffee for breakfast.

**2.2 The Definite Article the**

**the** is used:

• when a word is used a second time. My mother prepared **a cake** and some sandwiches. **The cake** was so delicious.

• when only one object exists: **the** earth, **the** sun, **the** River Thames….

**The** sun is bright today.

• when thinking of a specific thing. She applied for **the** job advertised.

• in superlative. What is **the** longest river in the world?

• before same and only. **The** only way to do great work is to love what you do.

**Practice**

Write **a**, **an**, **the**, or **no article** to complete these sentences.

1 He's .**a**..lawyer.

2 ..**The**.. moon moves slowly round ..**the**.. earth.

3 …sun is shining.

4 Yesterday, I saw … dog. … dog was running after … cat. … cat was running after … mouse. … mouse ran into … hole.

5 She got … job she applied for.

6 He gave me …lighter and some cigarettes but …lighter didn't work.

1. … grass is always greener on …other side of the fence.

8 …moon goes round … earth every 27 days.

9 If you live in … foreign country, you should learn … language.

10 Is …Nile or … Amazon … longest river on earth?

**2.3**  **Omission of Articles or ‘the’ before names of places**

• **a** or **the** is not usually used before proper names, names of villages, towns, streets, cities, countries or continents.

I took the train to **-** London.

• **the** is used before names of seas, rivers, groups of islands or mountains, kingdoms, republics, deserts, plural names of countries: the Atlantic Ocean, the River Thames, the Netherlands, the Arctic (land and sea), the Antarctic (land and sea), the Alps, the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates, the Sahara, the United Kingdom, the Nile, the Gobi Desert.

**Practice**

Write ‘the’ where necessary.

1 Several million visitors a year are attracted to the ski slopes of …Alps.

2 I went to … Buckingham Palace today. It was great.

3 I took the train to … London and then the underground to … Victoria Station. It’s a short walk from there.

4 Would you like to come with us to see … Titanic at the cinema tomorrow?

5 …Mount Everest is … highest mountain in the world.

6 …Middle East is one of the world’s hot spots.

7 We lived in … Netherlands before moving here.

8 If you ever go to … London you must see … Tower of London and … Tate Gallery.

9 She lives in … England, which is part of …UK.

**2.4 Omission of articles or ‘the’ before some words**

• There is usually no a or the before: school, college, university, home, work, church, bed, hospital, prison, town.

He likes going to **school**. I think she isn’t at **home** now. I usually get to **work** at 8:00. Do you go to **church** on Sundays? She went to **bed** as soon as she had finished her homework. Did you have the baby in **hospital**? Their father's in **prison**.

• Except when it is not used for its primary purpose

It was **a** very big church. **The** school is becoming old now. This is not **a** very comfortable bed. Is there **a** prison nearby? **The** hospital is closing down.

• We usually say **the** before the places we visit in a town: **the** cinema, theatre, disco, opera, post office, bank; names of shops - baker's, grocer's, supermarket, chemist, butcher's; dentist('s), doctor('s), hairdresser('s), toilet And we say the shopping: I do the shopping on Mondays.

We go to **the** cinema whenever we have time. Did you go to **the** disco last week? I buy everything I need in **the** supermarket.

• But **a** is sometimes used before these words: Did you go to **the** disco last week?/ There's **a** new disco in town. I'm going to **the** bank. / Does she work in **a** bank?

**Practice**

Write the sentences, adding ‘the’ where necessary.

1 Don't stay in that hotel. … beds are very uncomfortable.

2 When Ann was ill, we went to … hospital to visit her.

3 John himself doesn't go to … church.

4 After … work Ann usually goes … home.

5 Is he still in … bed?

6 Would you like to go to …cinema tonight?

7 We will visit him in … prison tomorrow.

8 I usually go to …bank once a week.

9 I do all my shopping at … supermarket.

10 He always goes to … doctor's when he feels sick.

**2.5 Other words with a, an, the or no article**

• **a**, **an** when talking about cost, speed or how often we do something.

The apples are £1 **a** kilo. Though it is dangerous, I never drive less than 120 kilometres **an** hour. She smokes about twenty cigarettes **a** day.

• **the** with musical instruments when we talk about playing them or listening to them.

Can you play **the** guitar? I love listening to **the** piano. / I’d like to buy **a** piano.

• **the** with listen to the radio. **No article** with watch television.

I usually listen to **the** radio in the mornings. They watch television most evenings. / Have you bought **a** new television? This is **an** old radio.

**2.6** **Omission of Articles**

No article before names of academic subjects, languages, sports, meals.

English is a universal language. Geography is my favourite subject. She plays basketball very well. I usually have toast for breakfast.

**Practice**

Supply the appropriate article where necessary.

1 I'm not very hungry, I had … big breakfast.

2 I never listen to … radio.

3 In fact, I haven't got … radio.

4 Are you interested in … art or … architecture?

5 Can your daughter play … saxophone?

6 I can cycle 15 miles … hour.

7 Do you speak … German or …Italian?

8 I take the children swimming twice … week.

9 Did you study … physics at school?

10 This flat costs £100 …week.

**Summary**

• **a, an** + singular noun; We are talking about one thing but it is not the only one.

• **the** + singular noun: There is only one or we are talking about a particular one.

**Practice**

Complete the conversation with **a**, **an**, **the** or **no article**.

A: It's 1..**a**.. beautiful day today. I'd like to go to 2..**the**.. beach.

B: Yes, but 3… beach is always crowded. I'd like to stay at 4… home and sit in 5… garden. We can have 6…lunch in 7 …garden.

A: But we stayed at 8 …home all day yesterday. I'd like to go out. I'm going back to 9… work tomorrow and this is l0 …last day of my holiday.

B: Well, we could go out tonight. There's 11…good film on at 12… cinema, or we could go to 13… theatre.

A: O.K. but14… theatre's too expensive. It's about £15 15… seat. B: That's true. We'll go to l6… cinema, then. Or we could stay here and watch 17… television. A: Oh no, that's boring. I want to go to 18… cinema.

B: And this afternoon?

A: You can stay here but I think I'll go to 19… town.

B: Can you do 20… shopping when you're in town?

A: Oh, all right.

**Exercises**

**Exercise1:** Fill in an article (the, a, an) where necessary – or leave blank !

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Teachers are like \_\_\_\_\_\_ weather, one minute they’re good, \_\_\_\_\_\_ other they’re bad.
2. Jake took out \_\_\_\_\_\_ beer opened it and drank \_\_\_\_\_\_ cold beer from \_\_\_\_\_\_ bottle. \_\_\_\_\_\_ beer always tasted better from \_\_\_\_\_\_ bottle.
3. She is on \_\_\_\_\_\_ diet, so she ordered \_\_\_\_\_\_ calorie-free dinner.
4. We’d like to have \_\_\_\_\_\_ wedding in \_\_\_\_\_\_ early fall, in early October if possible.
5. Emma’s eyes rested on \_\_\_\_\_\_ letter. Here was \_\_\_\_\_\_ opportunity she had been waiting for.

6. The plane was climbing up through \_\_\_\_\_\_ sky.

7. My grandmother was \_\_\_\_\_\_ true original. Strong of character, she ruled our family with \_\_\_\_\_\_ iron hand.

8. Maxim was at \_\_\_\_\_\_ centre of her thoughts.

9. Winston Churchill, \_\_\_\_\_\_ former Prime Minister of England, went to \_\_\_\_\_\_ Harrow.

10. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Marmalade is usually made from \_\_\_\_\_\_ oranges.

11. I live in \_\_\_\_\_\_ apartment, which is brand new.

12. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Royals is a serial which portraits \_\_\_\_\_\_ life of \_\_\_\_\_\_ members of \_\_\_\_\_\_ Royal family in \_\_\_\_\_\_ United Kingdom.

13. It was \_\_\_\_\_\_ cold Saturday morning at \_\_\_\_\_\_ beginning of \_\_\_\_\_\_ month.

14. It had rained earlier in the day and as Maggie left the house she lifted her eyes towards \_\_\_\_\_\_ sky.

15. I arrived in \_\_\_\_\_\_ USA last Monday. We left \_\_\_\_\_\_ Rome, flew over \_\_\_\_\_\_ Alps and made a quick stop in London.

16. Before we landed at \_\_\_\_\_\_ JFK airport, we saw \_\_\_\_\_\_ Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and \_\_\_\_\_\_ Empire State building.

17. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Most children like \_\_\_\_\_\_ sweets.

18. Jane’s husband got home early from \_\_\_\_\_\_ work.

19. Last year we visited \_\_\_\_\_\_ St. Paul’s Cathedral and \_\_\_\_\_\_ Tower of London.

20. Our friends, \_\_\_\_\_\_ Millers, moved to Florida last summer.

21. Our children go to school by \_\_\_\_\_\_ bus.

22. She likes \_\_\_\_\_\_ Indian tea but she doesn’t like \_\_\_\_\_\_ tea that comes from \_\_\_\_\_\_ Ceylon.

23. \_\_\_\_\_\_ President of the United States is giving a speech tonight.

24. The two countries reached \_\_\_\_\_\_ peace after a long, disastrous war.

25. We needed \_\_\_\_\_\_ house to live in when we were in London.

26. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Elephants are intelligent animals.

27. This is a book on \_\_\_\_\_\_ Irish history.

28. She had laughing eyes and \_\_\_\_\_\_ most charming mouth.

29. I’ll book \_\_\_\_\_\_ sleeper on \_\_\_\_\_\_ Geneva-Paris train tomorrow.

30. I’m tired. I think I’ll be going to \_\_\_\_\_\_ bed.

31. We need to be at \_\_\_\_\_\_ airport in \_\_\_\_\_\_ hour.

32. Their car does over a hundred miles \_\_\_\_\_\_ hour.

33. Carol’s father works as \_\_\_\_\_\_ electrician.

34. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Milk is rich in \_\_\_\_\_\_ nutrients.

35. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Money is one of \_\_\_\_\_\_ most important things in \_\_\_\_\_\_ life.

36. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Dogs make wonderful pets.

37. Do you happen to know who invented \_\_\_\_\_\_ camera?

**Exercise 2:** Read the following paragraph and circle the correct article. If no article is necessary, circle Ø.

Imagine you are at (1.) a / the / Ø conference on (2.) a / the / Ø artificial intelligence. Suddenly you realize you are about to bump into someone, but (3.) a / the / Ø person, just at (4.) a / the / Ø last moment, gracefully dodges you. You start to apologize as this person turns to face you, but you rudely cut your own apology short when you realize this person is actually (5.) a / the / Ø robot. (6.) A / The / Ø robot, however, continues with its polite apology before moving on. Does (7.) a / the / Ø robot have (8.) a / the / Ø better developed social skills than you? Its apology sounds completely sincere even though (9.) a / the / Ø near collision couldn’t have been (10.) a / the / Ø robot’s fault; it has been equipped with (11.) a / the / Ø laser and sonar components which sense (12.) a / the / Ø distance and steer it away from (13.) a / the / Ø people and things. In addition, it is hoped that this type of (14.) a / the / Ø robot will be programmed to socialize with (15.) a / the / Ø people. In other words, it will be able to recognize and ask (16.) a / the / Ø people relevant questions based on (17.) a / the / Ø previously collected information. So, imagine yourself in the same situation. What reaction would you have? Would you offer (18.) an / the / Ø apology?

**Exercise 3:** Correct the sentences where necessary.

1. Last year we visited Canada and United States.

2. Africa is much larger than Europe.

3. South of England is warmer than north.

4. We went to Spain for our holidays swam in Mediterranean.

5. Tom visited most countries in Western Europe.

6. A friend of mine used to work as a reporter in Middle East.

7. Next year we are going skiing in Swiss Alps.

8. Malta has been a republic since 1974.

9. The Nile is longest river in Africa.

10. United Kingdom consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

11. When an university formulates new regulations, it must relay its decisions to the

students and faculty.

12. Jim was upset last night because he had to do too many homeworks.

13. There are some scissors in the desk drawer in the bedroom if you need them.

14. The Board of Realtors doesn't have any informations about the increase in rent

for this area.

15. When Keith visited Alaska, he lived in a igloo, in the winter months as well as in

the spring.

16. Is the Everest the highest mountain in the world?

17. This school has quite a large campus.

18. The news that you brought was great shock.

19. Is Malta in the Mediterranean?

20. The good books have good examples.

**Exercise 4:** Define whether the following sentences are TRUE (T) or FALSE (F).

Correct mistakes.

1. John's friends had a farewell party for him last Friday.

2. He tried hard to get good grade on the test.

3. It is always difficult to make the decisions.

4. When he lived in Paris he went to parties every weekend.

5. They gave me a electric typewriter for my birthday.

6. Paul began to think that he would never find the happiness.

7. The old man no longer believed that money was the most important thing in life.

8. He wanted to try on pair of jogging shoes at the store.

9. In all his life he had never wanted to try the wine.

10. She does not have an understanding of the subject yet.

11. I just saw boys from Africa that I met at the International House party last week.

12. Teachers usually spend many hours correcting papers.

13. Some people believe that frankness is the best policy in any situation.

14. The man who fixed my air-conditioning unit accidentally broke the fan.

15. The doctors have to go to school for many years to complete their education.