

## Here are the basic rules for when to use "A, An or The":

- a = indefinite article (not a specific object, one of a number of the same objects)  
with consonants  
*Eric has a dog.*  
*Gregory works in a factory.*
- an = indefinite article (not a specific object, one of a number of the same objects)  
with vowels (a,e,i,o,u)  
*Can I have an apple?*  
*Donata is an English teacher.*
- the = definite article (a specific object that both the person speaking and the listener know)  
*The car over there is fast.*  
*The teacher is very good, isn't he?*
- The first time you speak of something use "a or an", the next time you repeat that object use "the".  
*I live in a house. The house is quite old and has two bedrooms.*  
*I ate in a Vietnamese restaurant. The restaurant was not very clean.*
- DO NOT use an article with countries, states, counties or provinces, lakes and mountains except when the country is a collection of states such as "The United States".  
*My uncle lives in Cumbria near Lake Windermere.*  
*They live in Bristol.*
  - Use an article with bodies of water, oceans and seas -  
*I live on a small island in the Baltic Sea.*
  - DO NOT use an article when you are speaking about things in general  
*I like Indian tea.*  
*Simon likes reading books about linguistics.*
- DO NOT use an article when you are speaking about meals, places, and transport  
*He has breakfast at home.*  
*I go to university.*  
*Magda comes to work by taxi.*

## Exercises

### A, An, or (Nothing)

Click the answer button to see the correct answer.

1. There were many dogs in the park. One dog was \_\_\_ Dalmatian.
2. Pandas and \_\_\_ tigers are both endangered animals.
3. She is wearing \_\_\_ blue dress with red earrings

4. Hawaii is \_\_\_ island in the Pacific Ocean.
5. Christmas comes once \_\_\_ year.
6. \_\_\_ ant is \_\_\_ insect.
7. The Nile is \_\_\_ river.
8. I went to the shop to get \_\_\_ bread.
9. He broke \_\_\_ glass when he was washing dishes.
10. You should take \_\_\_ umbrella.

Fill in the blanks with the correct article.

1. My wife is \_\_\_\_\_ doctor.
2. My brother is \_\_\_\_\_ artist.
3. I'm staying with \_\_\_\_\_ friends.
4. She's a writer. She writes \_\_\_\_\_ books.
5. I've got \_\_\_\_\_ car waiting outside.
6. I've got \_\_\_\_\_ more questions to ask you, if you don't mind.
7. My cousin is married to \_\_\_\_\_ actor.
8. What \_\_\_\_\_ wonderful presentation! You were excellent.
9. I've got \_\_\_\_\_ idea.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ people would like to talk to you, if you have the time.
11. I love \_\_\_\_\_ Coke.
12. I lived in Tahiti when I was \_\_\_\_\_ child.
13. I've seen \_\_\_\_\_ good films recently. "The Insider" was great.
14. I need to buy \_\_\_\_\_ new trousers. I'm getting fat!
15. Sue and Vaughan are \_\_\_\_\_ good writers.
16. They have written \_\_\_\_\_ new book called "Inside Out".
17. I like all animals but \_\_\_\_\_ cats are my favorites.
18. However I like \_\_\_\_\_ cats better than others!
19. You have got \_\_\_\_\_ really nice eyes.

20. It's the last question. What \_\_\_\_\_ relief!

### Articles: Health Clubs

Click the answer button to see the answer.

1. Are you shopping for \_\_\_\_ health club to join so you can get in shape?
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed
  
2. Shop wisely! You could end up choosing \_\_\_\_ wrong club and losing more money than pounds.
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed
  
3. You may find out too late that \_\_\_\_ health clubs aren't for you.
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed
  
4. \_\_\_\_ San Diego fitness experts recommend thoroughly checking out several health clubs before you join one.
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed
  
5. First, know what you want and need in \_\_\_\_ fitness facility, and don't pay for what you'll never use.
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed
  
6. If you only want exercise classes, \_\_\_\_ exercise studio without weight machines and locker rooms may work for you.
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed

7. If you're looking for \_\_\_ place to only do bodybuilding, you'll be happy in a basic gym.
- a
  - an
  - the
  - no article is needed
8. You may be in \_\_\_ market for a full-service health club; then, make sure it offers lots of activities.
- a
  - an
  - the
  - no article is needed
9. Look for a place near your house, and check out \_\_\_ exercise instructors and personal trainers.
- a
  - an
  - the
  - no article is needed
10. They should be educated in physical education or certified by \_\_\_ organization such as the American Council on exercise.
- a
  - an
  - the
  - no article is needed
11. Certified instructors have at least some knowledge of anatomy, exercise physiology, injury prevention and \_\_\_ cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- a
  - an
  - the
  - no article is needed
12. You should evaluate \_\_\_ equipment and make sure fitness machines are modern and in working order.
- a
  - an
  - the
  - no article is needed
13. Try to talk to other members of the club. Find out what they believe are \_\_\_ advantages and disadvantages there.
- a
  - an
  - the

- d. no article is needed
14. Look in \_\_\_ locker room, workout room, and shower--everywhere should be clean.
- a
  - an
  - the
  - no article is needed
15. \_\_\_ locker room sanitation is usually a good indication of how clean other areas are.
- a
  - an
  - the
  - no article is needed
16. Finally, before you sign \_\_\_ agreement to join, read the contract carefully.
- a
  - an
  - the
  - no article is needed

### **A, An, The, or (Nothing)**

Click the answer button to see the correct answer.

1. This coat was designed by \_\_\_ famous New York artist.
2. Can you tell me how to get to \_\_\_ bank from here?
3. \_\_\_ city museum is closed today.
4. He is one of \_\_\_ smartest people I know.
5. I recommend you eat \_\_\_ apple pie at this restaurant.
6. \_\_\_ milk is good for you.
7. Would you like to see \_\_\_ movie?
8. \_\_\_ apple a day keeps \_\_\_ doctor away.
9. I can't believe I failed \_\_\_ yesterday's test!
10. Do you have \_\_\_ dictionary that I can borrow?

## **A, An, The or Nothing**

Click the answer button to see the correct answer.

1. This is \_\_\_ easy question.
2. Please speak \_\_\_ little louder.
3. May I have your \_\_\_ phone number?
4. I have never seen \_\_\_ UFO.
5. May I ask you \_\_\_ question?
6. David is \_\_\_ best student in our class.
7. What is \_\_\_ name of the next station?
8. He has \_\_\_ my car today.
9. I went to \_\_\_ sea during my summer vacation.
10. Is there \_\_\_ public telephone near here?