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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. My wife is ______ doctor.</th>
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<td>2. My brother is ______ artist.</td>
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<td>3. I'm staying with ______ friends.</td>
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<td>4. She's a writer. She writes ______ books.</td>
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<td>5. I've got ______ car waiting outside.</td>
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<td>6. I've got ______ more questions to ask you, if you don't mind.</td>
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<td>7. My cousin is married to ______ actor.</td>
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<td>8. What ______ wonderful presentation! You were excellent.</td>
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<td>9. I've got ______ idea.</td>
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<td>10. ______ people would like to talk to you, if you have the time.</td>
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<td>11. I love ______ Coke.</td>
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<td>12. I lived in Tahiti when I was ______ child.</td>
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<td>13. I've seen ______ good films recently. &quot;The Insider&quot; was great.</td>
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<td>14. I need to buy ______ new trousers. I'm getting fat!</td>
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<td>15. Sue and Vaughan are ______ good writers.</td>
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<td>16. They have written ______ new book called &quot;Inside Out&quot;.</td>
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<td>17. I like all animals but ______ cats are my favorites.</td>
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<td>18. However I like ______ cats better than others!</td>
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<td>19. You have got ______ really nice eyes.</td>
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</table>
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. a
   b. an
   c. the
   d. 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. a
   b. an
   c. the
   d. no article is needed

9. Look for a place near your house, and check out ___ exercise instructors and personal trainers.
   a. a
   b. an
   c. the
   d. no article is needed

10. They should be educated in physical education or certified by ___ organization such as the American Council on exercise.
    a. a
    b. an
    c. the
    d. no article is needed

11. Certified instructors have at least some knowledge of anatomy, exercise physiology, injury prevention and ___ cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
    a. a
    b. an
    c. the
    d. no article is needed

12. You should evaluate ___ equipment and make sure fitness machines are modern and in working order.
    a. a
    b. an
    c. the
    d. 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. a
    b. an
    c. the
d. no article is needed

14. Look in ___ locker room, workout room, and shower--everywhere should be clean.
   a. a
   b. an
   c. the
   d. no article is needed

15. ___ locker room sanitation is usually a good indication of how clean other areas are.
   a. a
   b. an
   c. the
   d. no article is needed

16. Finally, before you sign ___ agreement to join, read the contract carefully.
   a. a
   b. an
   c. the
   d. 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?