

Articles (advanced use) – Worksheet 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 40



Do this worksheet
online and check your
answers instantly

Exercise 1: a, an, the or no article?

Complete each sentence with *a, an, the* or – (no article).

Example: I'd like to be ___ architect. → an

- _____ unemployed often find it hard to get a loan.
- He spent five years in _____ prison for robbery.
- _____ Netherlands is famous for its flat landscape.
- She plays _____ violin in a youth orchestra.
- _____ Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa.
- _____ life in a big city can be exhausting.
- He's _____ honest man; you can trust him.
- _____ life of a medieval peasant was extremely hard.

Exercise 2: Fixed expressions with articles

Complete the sentences with the phrases from the box. There are two extra phrases.

WORD BOX

once a week such a What a The more half an hour few a few at night such the
the night

- We only see each other _____ – usually on Fridays.
- It was _____ beautiful day that we decided to have lunch outside.
- _____ mess! Who left all these dishes in the sink?
- _____ you practise, the better you get.
- The train was delayed by _____, so I missed my meeting.
- Very _____ people attended, so the event was cancelled.
- I've got _____ questions – do you have five minutes?
- I can't sleep if there's noise _____.

Exercise 3: Find the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake with articles. Write the correct sentence.

Example: She is best student in the class. → She is the best student in the class.

17. The honesty is the best policy.

18. She's studying to become engineer.

19. Have you ever been to the Lake Geneva?

20. We had a lunch at a small café near the station.

21. Is this most interesting book you have ever read?

22. Rich should pay more taxes, according to the report.

23. I usually go to work by the bus.

24. Doesn't she know that sun is a star?

Exercise 4: Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite each sentence so that it means the same, using the word or structure in brackets.

Example: People who are young often love technology. (the + adjective) → The young often love technology.

25. Poor people often suffer most in a crisis. (the + adjective)

26. When you earn more money, you spend more. (The more ..., the more ...)

27. The film was so boring that I fell asleep. (such)

28. The view is very beautiful! (What)

29. Hanna earns €50 for every hour she works. (an)

30. People from Japan are known for their politeness. (the Japanese)

31. She visits her grandparents twice every month. (a)

32. The meeting lasted thirty minutes. (half)

Exercise 5: Questions and negatives

Put the words in the correct order to make questions and negative sentences.

Example: you / play / do / the / piano → Do you play the piano?

33. is / the / Amazon / the / longest / river / in / South America

34. she / didn't / to / go / school / yesterday

35. you / have / ever / the / Andes / been / to

36. isn't / such / it / a / problem / big (make a statement, not a question)

37. does / play / guitar / your / the / sister

38. the / elderly / enough / receive / don't / support

39. how / times / a / do / exercise / many / week / you

40. by / you / train / why / didn't / come

Answer key – Articles (advanced use) – Worksheet 1

Exercise 1: a, an, the or no article?

1. **The**
The + adjective refers to a whole group of people.
2. **–**
No article is used with prison when we talk about its main purpose.
3. **The**
Country names with a plural form take the.
4. **the**
We usually use the with musical instruments after play.
5. **–**
Single mountains do not take an article.
6. **–**
Abstract nouns used in a general sense take no article.
7. **an**
We use an before a vowel sound; the h in honest is silent.
8. **The**
The abstract noun is made specific by 'of a medieval peasant', so we use the.

Exercise 2: Fixed expressions with articles

9. **once a week**
We use a/an to mean 'per' in expressions of frequency.
10. **such a**
Such a is used before an adjective + singular countable noun.
11. **What a**
What a + singular countable noun is used in exclamations.
12. **The more**
The more ..., the + comparative shows two things changing together.
13. **half an hour**
The fixed order is half + an + hour.
14. **few**
Few without a has a negative meaning: not many.
15. **a few**
A few has a positive meaning: some.
16. **at night**
At night is a fixed expression with no article.

Exercise 3: Find the mistake

17. **Honesty is the best policy.**
Abstract nouns used in a general sense take no article.
18. **She's studying to become an engineer.**
We use a/an before jobs.
19. **Have you ever been to Lake Geneva?**
Names of single lakes do not take an article.
20. **We had lunch at a small café near the station.**
Meals usually take no article.
21. **Is this the most interesting book you have ever read?**
Superlatives take the.
22. **The rich should pay more taxes, according to the report.**
We need the + adjective to refer to a group of people.
23. **I usually go to work by bus.**
By + means of transport takes no article.
24. **Doesn't she know that the sun is a star?**
Unique things such as the sun take the.

Exercise 4: Rewrite the sentences

25. **The poor often suffer most in a crisis.**
The + adjective replaces 'adjective + people'.
26. **The more money you earn, the more you spend.**
The + comparative ..., the + comparative links two changes.
27. **It was such a boring film that I fell asleep.**
Such a + adjective + singular noun replaces so + adjective.
28. **What a beautiful view!**
What a + adjective + singular noun forms an exclamation.
29. **Hanna earns €50 an hour.**
An can mean 'per' with units of time.
30. **The Japanese are known for their politeness.**
The + nationality ending in -ese refers to the whole nation.
31. **She visits her grandparents twice a month.**
A means 'per' in frequency expressions.
32. **The meeting lasted half an hour.**
Thirty minutes is half an hour.

Exercise 5: Questions and negatives

33. Is the Amazon the longest river in South America?

Rivers take the, and so do superlatives; continents take no article.

34. She didn't go to school yesterday.

Go to school (as a student) takes no article.

35. Have you ever been to the Andes?

Mountain ranges take the.

36. It isn't such a big problem.

The reviewer's answer is already correct, so the prompt now says the sentence is a statement to rule out the question order 'Isn't it such a big problem?', and the full form is also accepted.

37. Does your sister play the guitar?

Play the + instrument.

38. The elderly don't receive enough support.

The elderly refers to elderly people as a group.

39. How many times a week do you exercise?

A week means 'per week' in frequency questions.

40. Why didn't you come by train?

By + transport takes no article.

Notes for teachers: Start by eliciting the difference between 'Life is short' and 'The life of a soldier is hard' before learners begin. Typical mistakes are using 'the' with abstract nouns in a general sense, leaving out 'a/an' before jobs, and adding 'the' to single mountains and lakes. As a follow-up, ask learners to write five true sentences about their country using geographical names and 'the + adjective'.