**Articles**

Fill in the gaps with ‘a’, ‘the’ or nothing.

As you do so, think about *why* you’ve made that choice.

1. This is \_\_\_\_\_\_ most expensive hotel room I’ve ever stayed in.

2. At the moment, \_\_\_\_\_\_ euro is stronger than \_\_\_\_\_ Aussie dollar.

3. This is \_\_\_\_\_\_ fifth day of our conference.

4. Apples currently cost $1.30 \_\_\_\_\_\_ pound.

5. When food is eaten, it passes into \_\_\_\_\_\_ stomach.

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_ water is an important resource.

7. Don’t forget \_\_\_\_\_\_ following rules. First, don’t…

8. I play \_\_\_\_\_\_ piano.

9. Cheetahs can run 60 miles \_\_\_\_\_\_ hour.

10. \_\_\_\_\_\_ vegetables are good for you.

11. They drove \_\_\_\_\_ north all day.

12. \_\_\_\_\_\_ dolphin is a very intelligent animal.

13. Our house is in \_\_\_\_\_\_ north.

14. I saw him again \_\_\_\_\_\_ next day.

15. He is \_\_\_\_\_ elderly.

16. This organisation helps \_\_\_\_\_\_ elderly.

17. I like \_\_\_\_\_\_ French; it’s an interesting language.

18. I like \_\_\_\_\_ French; they’re a lovely people.

19. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Americans watch a lot of TV.

20. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Indians don’t drink a lot of wine.

What rules do these uses illustrate? (Note: sometimes, several sentences illustrate the same point.)

Use ‘the’ for… Examples

Use ‘a’/’an’ for… Examples

Use no (zero) article for… Examples

**Articles again**

(These lists are from ‘English Page’ (<http://www.englishpage.com/articles/advanced-articles.htm>) – go there for flashcards to practise these, along with many other uses of articles.)

Use *THE* with the names of:

* oceans
* seas
* coasts
* rivers
* swamps
* archipelagos
* collections of lakes (such as the Great Lakes)
* mountain chains
* deserts
* references on the globe (such as the Equator, the North Pole)
* geographic regions (such as the Northwest, the Middle East)
* bridges (except Tower Bridge)
* pagodas
* hotels
* theaters
* museums
* institutes
* skyscrapers
* the Sun, the Moon
* extraordinary works of art or architecture (such as the Mona Lisa, the Colosseum, the Great Wall of China, and the Taj Mahal)

Examples:

* James visited **the** Hermitage, a famous museum in St. Petersburg.
* I would love to visit **the** North Pole.
* Nina walked over **the** Rialto Bridge.

Do not use an article with:

* individual lakes
* individual islands
* beaches
* waterfalls
* individual mountains (except the Matterhorn)
* canyons (except the Grand Canyon)
* people's first names
* streets (except the High Street)
* public squares
* hospitals
* stadiums
* malls
* parks
* churches
* temples
* universities
* colleges
* languages
* religions
* days
* months
* holidays

Examples:

* Have you ever visited **Notre Dame Cathedral** in Paris?
* Kenta is **Buddhist**.
* We went camping in **King's Canyon**.

HOWEVER: There are additional exceptions to some of the above categories. For example, *THE* is often used in the pattern "the ... of ...".

Examples:

* **The** University **of** Colorado
* **The** Temple **of** Ranakpur
* **The** Cathedral **of** Siena

Complete these general knowledge questions (and then answer them).

In which \_\_\_\_\_ South American country is \_\_\_\_ Portuguese spoken?

In which city can you find \_\_\_\_\_\_ Red Square?

Which \_\_\_\_\_ planet is closest to \_\_\_\_\_\_ sun?

On which date is \_\_\_\_\_ Independence Day?

On which \_\_\_\_ Adelaide street is \_\_\_\_\_ Chancellor Hotel?

Now create questions of your own.