Articles: A, An and The

B1–B2 grammar practice • 60 questions • 40–50 minutes

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Quick grammar guide

a / an	Use with **singular countable nouns** when mentioning something for the first time or describing a job: *a book, an architect*. Choose by **sound**, not spelling: *a university, an hour*.
the	Use when the person or thing is **known or specific**, with superlatives and in expressions such as *the piano, the River Thames, the Alps*.
No article (—)	Use for **plural and uncountable nouns in general**, most languages and meals, and most country names: *Books are useful. Water matters. She speaks Italian.*
Useful expressions	*by bus, at school* (as a pupil), *go to bed*; but *take the bus, visit the school, sit on the bed*. Context changes the choice.

Sound matters: *an hour* but *a university*; *an honest person* but *a European city*.

1. Choose the correct article | 10 marks

Circle the correct answer. The symbol — means no article.

1. My cousin is **a / an** electrician.

2. We waited **a / an** hour for the train.

3. Sarah studies at **a / an** university in Birmingham.

4. We visited **a / the** museum you recommended.

5. I need **a / an** umbrella because it is raining.

6. They travelled to **the / —** Netherlands last summer.

7. I usually eat **the / —** breakfast at seven.

8. He plays **a / the** piano beautifully.

9. My sister speaks **the / —** German fluently.

10. We took **a / the** 8.30 train we had booked.

More practice

2. Complete the sentences | 10 marks

Write **a**, **an**, **the** *or* **—** *(no article) in each gap.*

11. I bought _____ orange at the market.

12. Could you open _____ window next to you?

13. My dad gave me _____ useful piece of advice.

14. We went hiking in _____ Alps.

15. James is _____ honest man.

16. _____ Lake Geneva lies between Switzerland and France.

17. _____ information in this email is confidential.

18. Tariq wants to become _____ pilot.

19. They rented _____ small flat near the station.

20. Please put the milk back in _____ fridge.

3. A day in Cambridge | 10 marks

Complete the short story with **a**, **an**, **the** *or* **—**.

Last Saturday, I took **(21)** _____ 9.10 train that I had booked to Cambridge with my friend Lena. We wanted to visit **(22)** _____ Fitzwilliam Museum and spend **(23)** _____ afternoon exploring the city. Our first stop was **(24)** _____ small café near the station. I ordered **(25)** _____ omelette, while Lena chose **(26)** _____ bowl of porridge. After breakfast, we walked beside **(27)** _____ River Cam and watched students riding **(28)** _____ bicycles. Later, we found **(29)** _____ old bookshop and bought a guide to **(30)** _____ city.

Tip: A second mention often takes *the*, but a general plural noun usually takes no article.

Articles in everyday English

4. Complete the conversations | 10 marks

Write **a**, **an**, **the** *or* **—** *in each conversation.*

31. A: Is there _____ pharmacy nearby? **B:** Yes, on the corner.

32. A: Which one is open late? **B:** _____ pharmacy opposite the bank.

33. A: I have got _____ idea. **B:** Tell me!

34. A: Is it _____ useful idea? **B:** I hope so!

35. A: How do you get to work? **B:** By _____ bus.

36. A: What about today? **B:** I am taking _____ taxi.

37. A: Have you seen _____ keys I left here? **B:** Not yet.

38. A: I found _____ key under the sofa. **B:** It might be mine.

39. A: Is Oliver at _____ school? **B:** Yes, he has a maths test.

40. A: What happens after school? **B:** He has _____ appointment.

5. Find and correct the mistake | 10 marks

Each sentence contains **one article mistake**. *Rewrite the incorrect part.*

41. She is an university student.

Correction: _____

42. We went to the France for our holiday.

Correction: _____

43. Could you pass me a salt on the table?

Correction: _____

44. My brother is engineer.

Correction: _____

45. I usually have a breakfast at eight.

Correction: _____

46. An European colleague joined our team yesterday.

Correction: _____

47. They climbed the Mount Everest last year.

Correction: _____

48. She bought an one-way ticket to Glasgow.

Correction: _____

49. The children at our school study the English.

Correction: _____

50. We stayed in a hotel. A hotel had a lovely garden.

Correction: _____

Challenge and review

6. B2 First-style sentence transformations | 10 marks

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning. Use the word in **CAPITALS**. *Write* **2–5 words**; *do not change the word given.*

51. I have never heard a more interesting story. **MOST**
This is _____ I have ever heard.

52. My sister works as an architect. **JOB**
My sister has _____.

53. We travelled to York on the train. **BY**
We travelled to York _____.

54. She has not visited this museum before. **FIRST**
This is _____ she has visited this museum.

55. He studies at a university in Edinburgh. **STUDENT**
He is _____ in Edinburgh.

56. They chose the only hotel in the village. **WAS**
There _____ in the village, and they chose it.

57. No mountain in Africa is higher than Kilimanjaro. **HIGHEST**
Kilimanjaro is _____ in Africa.

58. We always travel to work by bus. **TAKE**
We always _____ to work.

59. I bought a ticket for a journey in one direction. **ONE-WAY**
I bought _____.

60. My grandfather was a pilot. **AS**
My grandfather worked _____.

A little more practice (optional)

Write four sentences: one about a job, one with *an* before a vowel sound, one about a place you both know and one about things in general.

My score: _____ / 60 **One rule I want to remember:** _____