

E. In Exercise D circle all the nouns before which articles have been used. Identify ten nouns before which no article has been used. Now fill in the table.

A USED BEFORE THESE NOUNS	AN USED BEFORE THESE NOUNS	THE USED BEFORE THESE NOUNS	NO ARTICLE USED BEFORE THESE NOUNS

THE ZERO ARTICLE or NO ARTICLE

We do not use an article

- ❖ with the names of days, months, festivals and seasons.
 - On Saturday, we visited the bird sanctuary of Kapiti Island.*
 - We will visit the Botanic Gardens in the month of February.*
 - On the day before Thanksgiving we will visit the National Wildlife Centre.*
 - Trees shed their leaves in autumn.*
- ❖ before meals.
 - Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included in the holiday package.*
- ❖ before languages or subjects.
 - Manik is studying French along with science, English and mathematics in school.*

F. Fill in the blanks with the correct articles. Put a cross where you think no article is required.

TEACHER: Where is ^{1.} X Dinesh?

SAURABH: Ma'am, he missed ^{2.} the school bus.

TEACHER: He does not study at all. If he continues in the same fashion he will not do well in ^{3.} the examination.

We all know that ^{4.} the good night's sleep is very important but so is ^{5.} the education.

SAURABH: Yes, Ma'am, and ^{6.} the exercise too!



- ♦ with a noun that represents a whole class. *The leopard can climb trees.*
- ♦ with the names of mountain ranges, ocean, seas, rivers, gulfs, bays, deserts, *the Himalayas, the Pacific Ocean, the Caspian Sea, the Brahmaputra, the Persian Gulf, the Bay of Bengal, the Thar desert*
- ♦ with the names of monuments, theatres, stadiums and auditoriums. *the Victoria Memorial, the Prithvi Theatre, the Brabourne Stadium, the Siri Fort Auditorium*
- ♦ with certain books and newspapers. *the Quran, the Indian Express*
- ♦ with things that are only one of their kind. *the sun, the moon*
- ♦ with trains. *the Shatabdi Express, the Amritsar Mail*
- ♦ with the superlative degree of the adjective. *Even the darkest cloud has a silver lining.*

A. Fill in the blanks with a, an or the. Use a capital letter wherever required.

1. The Mayor and the Governor of this town are in the meeting.
2. There is an oak tree and a maple tree near Mr Sethi's house.
3. The man you met yesterday in the park is my uncle.
4. I visited the Qutub Minar and the Red Fort when I went to Delhi.
5. Please give me the book that is lying on the table.
6. The Mississippi and the Amazon are beautiful rivers.
7. Sarita likes to play the tabla but Rajdeep likes to play the guitar.
8. The Rajdhani Express started from the station on time.
9. We saw an alligator and a rhinoceros in the jungles of Africa. The alligator was in a swamp and the rhinoceros was wading in a pool of water.
10. The small town that I live in has a university, a hospital and a boarding school.
11. The great writer, Ruskin Bond, wrote an amazing ghost story.
12. Please give me Granny's glasses. I need to take them to the neighbourhood optician to get them repaired.
13. Refer to a dictionary whenever in doubt of a spelling or meaning of a word.
14. Oliver Twist was a little boy, who lived in an orphanage.
15. Could you please water the plants and get some new ones from a nursery?

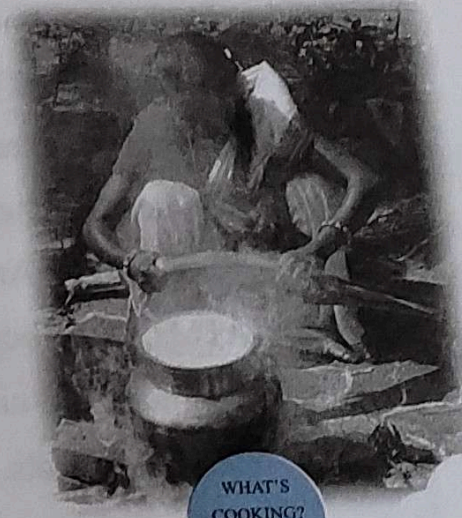
B. Some articles are missing in the dialogue. Fill in the articles where you think they are missing. The number of articles missing in each sentence is indicated. Look up the rules again and check your work.

NUMBER OF MISSING ARTICLES

- Mrs KHANNA: Good evening! Ajay seems to have misplaced ^{the} dictionary I bought for him. May I borrow Preity's dictionary for him, please? (1)
- Mrs SHARMA: Certainly! Come inside while I look for ^{the} dictionary. (1)
- Mrs KHANNA: Thank you. Ajay has come across ^a lot of new words ever since I've started buying ~~books~~ ^{ebooks} for him. (1)
- Mrs SHARMA: What are ebooks?
- Mrs KHANNA: Ebooks are ^{the} electronic books that have story in both written and audio form with sound and music. (1)
- Mrs SHARMA: That sounds very interesting! Where do you buy ^{the} ebooks from? (1)
- Mrs KHANNA: There are many websites on the Internet which offer ^{the} children's ~~books~~ ^{ebooks}. (1)
- Mrs SHARMA: Can you suggest ^{an} ebook about animals? Preity is fond of them. (1)
- Mrs KHANNA: You can borrow ^a *The Jungle Book*. Ajay finds ^{the} story even more interesting in ^a new form. (2)
- Mrs SHARMA: Thank you! I'll give Preity ^a surprise. She will be happy to hear ^{the} sounds of animals in ^a story. (3)

C. Tick the correct articles.

- India has a an ancient heritage.
- A The people of India celebrate many festivals.
- A The chief festival of Tamilians is Pongal.
- Pongal is a an harvest festival which is celebrated after a the winter harvest.
- It combines thanksgiving to a the god of harvesting with a the day of feasting.
- A The festival is a an expression of an the farmer's joy at a the bountiful harvest.
- A The festival is celebrated with folk songs and dances. Houses are cleaned and repainted. Freshly harvested rice boiled in milk, coloured with turmeric, and sweetened with sugarcane juice, is made in each house. This rice is called pongal.



WHAT'S COOKING? PONGAL!

TARA: Should we give him 7. a call and ask him to reach
8. the school by the second period?

TEACHER: Yes. Go down to 9. the office. Inform him that we have
10. a test in the third period. He mustn't miss 11. the test.

TARA: Yes, Ma'am. I'll go and make 12. a call to his mother.

TEACHER: Tara, please ask her to meet me on 13. X Friday afternoon.

G. Urmila and Madhavi are sending text messages to each other. Write the messages correctly. Add articles where necessary.



MORE PRACTICE

Insert articles wherever needed or strike out the extra ones.

1. Sindbad the Sailor lived in ~~the~~ Baghdad.
2. He loved to travel and meet different kinds of ~~a~~ people.
3. He went on ^{the} seven long and adventurous voyages.
4. This is beginning of ^{an} account of Sindbad's second voyage.
5. One day, Sindbad felt ^{an} urge to travel.
6. He packed his clothes and set off on his journey with some sailors on ^a ship.
7. Many weeks later, they reached ^{an} island.
8. They decided to rest there for ~~a~~ some time.
9. Sindbad took some food with him and sat under ^a tree by river.
10. Soon he fell asleep on ^{the} soft, green grass.
11. When he awoke, he went to look for his ship.
12. Looking out to ^{the} sea, Sindbad saw ^{the} white sail of ship far away in water.
13. His ship had left without ~~the~~ Sindbad!



ARTICLES

Arundhati is in her grandmother's garden. They have just returned from a nursery and are planting brinjal saplings. Complete the dialogue between Arundhati and her grandmother. Put a cross where no article is needed.

ARUNDHATI: Grandma, why didn't you buy fertilizer from ^{1.} a nursery?

GRANDMOTHER: Chemicals are very harmful Aruna. I only use ^{2.} the manure for my vegetables.

ARUNDHATI: Where do you get ^{3.} the manure from?

GRANDMOTHER: Do you see ^{4.} ~~a~~ the brick pit under ^{5.} ~~a~~ the tree in ^{6.} the corner?

ARUNDHATI: Yes, you empty ^{7.} the kitchen garbage in it.

GRANDMOTHER: It is called ^{8.} the compost pit. I keep adding ^{9.} the natural waste like ^{10.} ~~the~~ banana peels, used tea leaves and ^{11.} the eggshells, till they are rotten.

ARUNDHATI: Doesn't it smell bad?

GRANDMOTHER: You can add ^{12.} a layer of leaves or ^{13.} ~~x~~ soil over ^{14.} the top to reduce ^{15.} ~~x~~ odour.

ARUNDHATI: How long does it take to make ^{16.} the manure?

GRANDMOTHER: A little over ^{17.} ~~x~~ month.

ARUNDHATI: That's ^{18.} a long wait!

GRANDMOTHER: Yes, but ^{19.} the advantages are worth it, Aruna. The manure ensures that vegetables remain healthy and retain all their nutrients. It also reduces ^{20.} the weeds and thus, my time in maintaining ^{21.} the garden!

ACTIVITY

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY

Work with your partner. Say a noun before which you do/do not use an article, for example, umbrella – an umbrella. Your partner says a noun before which you do/do not use an article, but NOT the article an, for example, a helicopter. Now it's your turn. Say a noun before which you do/do not use an article, but NOT a or an, and so on. The trick is not to repeat an article in a set of four nouns – so, it could be a, an, the, zero article in any order. In the next set of four nouns start all over again. Form an article chain in this way. The first to say a noun in which in a article will be repeated is out.

set an umbrella → a helicopter → the Red Fort → English

set the Atlantic Ocean → ...

↑ Should not be the previous article