ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Articles (A, An, The) MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 3

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/articles-test-3/

1	**D**	2	**C**	3	**B**	4	**D**	5	**E**	6	**D**	7	**C**	8	**D**	9	**A**	10	**C**
11	**B**	12	**A**	13	**E**	14	**A**	15	**A**	16	**B**	17	**C**	18	**D**	19	**C**	20	**C**

Explanations

1. _____ best runner in the race was _____ young girl.
✔ **D) the / a**
Superlatives take **the**: **the best runner**. **A young girl** uses **a** because we mention her for the first time and say what kind of person she was. Not **an**, because **young** starts with a consonant sound.

2. The first of _____ January is _____ great holiday in many countries.
✔ **C) _____ / a**
Names of months take no article: **the first of January**. **A great holiday** uses **a** because it describes one holiday among many. Not **an**, because **great** starts with a consonant sound.

3. On _____ Sundays, my father stays in _____ bed till ten o'clock reading _____ Sunday papers.
✔ **B) _____ / _____ / the**
Days used for a habit take no article: **on Sundays**. **Stay in bed** is a fixed phrase with no article. **The Sunday papers** is a known, specific set of newspapers, so it takes **the**.

4. After _____ fourth lesson English pupils have _____ break of _____ hour and _____ half for dinner.
✔ **D) the / a / an / a**
Ordinal numbers take **the**: **the fourth lesson**. **A break** is one break mentioned for the first time. The fixed phrase is **an hour and a half**: use **an** before **hour** because the **h** is silent.

5. On _____ day of _____ race many people came to watch the skating.
✔ **E) the / the**
The day is a specific day, defined by **of the race**, so it takes **the**. **The race** is a particular race that the reader already knows about, so it also takes **the**.

6. _____ Sahara is in the northern part of Africa.
✔ **D) the**
Names of deserts take **the**: **the Sahara**, **the Gobi**. Continents take no article: **Africa**.

7. _____ fog was so thick that we couldn't see _____ side of _____ road.
✔ **C) the / the / the**
All three nouns are specific. **The fog** is the fog on that day. **The side of the road** refers to the road they were on. That is why all three gaps need **the**.

8. I remember an episode in _____ my life when I had to spend _____ month in the country.
✔ **D) _____ / a**
We never use an article together with **my**, so it is **in my life**. **A month** means one month, and **month** starts with a consonant sound, so it takes **a**, not **an**.

9. In _____ afternoon _____ wind increased and they soon found themselves in _____ difficulties.
✔ **A) the / the / _____**
Parts of the day take **the**: **in the afternoon**. **The wind** is the wind of that day, so it is specific. **In difficulties** is a fixed phrase with no article.

10. They took part in _____ demonstration in _____ Independence Square.
✔ **C) the / _____**
The demonstration refers to a particular, known event. Names of squares usually take no article: **Independence Square**, **Trafalgar Square**.

11. And what _____ beautiful picture there is over there on _____ wall!
✔ **B) a / the**
Exclamations with a singular countable noun use **what a**: **What a beautiful picture! On the wall** refers to a particular wall in the room, so it takes **the**.

12. Roger looked at him and, without _____ word, gave him _____ ten-dollar note.
✔ **A) a / a**
The fixed phrase is **without a word**, meaning without saying anything. **A ten-dollar note** is one note mentioned for the first time, so it takes **a**.

13. _____ longest river in _____ world is _____ Nile.
✔ **E) the / the / the**
Superlatives take **the**: **the longest river**. There is only one world, so it is **the world**. Names of rivers also take **the**: **the Nile**, **the Thames**.

14. It took us _____ hour and _____ half to do the shopping and we got _____ home at 4.
✔ **A) an / a / _____**
The fixed phrase is **an hour and a half**: use **an** before **hour** because the **h** is silent. After verbs like **get**, **go** and **come**, **home** takes no article: **we got home**.

15. _____ apple _____ day keeps _____ doctor away.
✔ **A) an / a / the**
This is a proverb: **An apple a day keeps the doctor away.** Use **an** before the vowel sound in **apple**. **A day** means 'every day'. **The doctor** means doctors in general.

16. We had _____ good talk with him about _____ weather, _____ literature and other things.
✔ **B) a / the / _____**
Have a good talk uses **a**. We always say **the weather**. Abstract subjects in general take no article: **literature**, **music**, **history**. Not **the literature**, because we mean literature in general, not a particular piece of writing.

17. _____ girl from _____ farm came once _____ week to help to clean _____ house.
✔ C) the / the / a / the
The girl and **the farm** are known to the speaker and listener, so they take **the**. **Once a week** means one time every week, so it uses **a**. **The house** is the particular house being talked about.

18. _____ questions Ann asked always seemed to be _____ questions which Paul knew _____ answer to.
✔ D) the / _____ / the
The questions Ann asked is specific, because the clause **Ann asked** defines it. The second gap has no article: **questions which Paul knew the answer to** describes a type of question. **The answer** is specific, because each question has one answer.

19. Before the New Year, we usually have _____ wonderful party at _____ school.
✔ C) a / _____
A wonderful party uses **a** because it describes one party of a certain kind. **At school** has no article when we mean the place where pupils study. Not **an**, because **wonderful** starts with a consonant sound.

20. There is _____ hair in my soup and _____ plate is dirty.
✔ C) a / the
A hair means one single hair, so it is countable and takes **a**. **The plate** is the particular plate the soup is on. Not **an hair**, because the **h** in **hair** is pronounced.

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