ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Articles (A, An, The) MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 4

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/articles-test-4/

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Explanations

1. Soon our team scored _____ goal and won _____ game.
✔ **C) a / the**
Use **a** for one goal among many that is not specific. Use **the** for the game we already know about, the one the team was playing.

2. Let's have _____ good breakfast and start the day.
✔ **D) a**
Breakfast usually has no article, but with an adjective before it (**a good breakfast**) we use **a**. Not **an**, because **good** starts with a consonant sound.

3. _____ youngest boy has just started going to school; _____ eldest boy is at _____ college.
✔ **A) the / the / ____**
Superlatives take **the**: **the youngest**, **the eldest**. **At college** has no article when it means studying there, like **at school**.

4. -Did you come by _____ air? -No, I came by _____ sea. I had a lovely voyage on _____ Queen Elizabeth II.
✔ **B) ____ / ____ / the**
With **by** + means of travel there is no article: **by air**, **by sea**, **by car**. Names of ships take **the**: **the Queen Elizabeth II**.

5. We have a very good train service from here to _____ city centre and many people go to _____ work by train.
✔ **D) the / ____**
The city centre is the one centre of our city, so we use **the**. **Go to work** is a fixed phrase with no article, like **go to school**.

6. - I didn't recognize you. You look different. - I know. I've lost _____ lot of _____ weight.
✔ **A) a / ____**
A lot of is a fixed phrase. **Weight** here is uncountable and general, so it has no article: **lose weight**.

7. _____ sun came out right after _____ rain and there was _____ beautiful rainbow in _____ sky.
✔ **A) The / the / a / the**
The sun and **the sky** are unique, so they take **the**. **The rain** is the rain we just had. **A beautiful rainbow** is mentioned for the first time, so we use **a**.

8. I always have _____ breakfast at 8 a.m. Today I had _____ very nice breakfast.
✔ **B) ____ / a**
Meals usually have no article: **have breakfast**. With an adjective describing it, we use **a**: **a very nice breakfast**.

9. He was _____ very tall man with _____ dark hair.
✔ **B) a / ____**
We describe a person with **a**: **a very tall man**. **Hair** is uncountable here, so no article: **dark hair**.

10. Would you like to be _____ English teacher at _____ college?
✔ **D) an / ____**
When we talk about a job in general, we use **a/an**. **English** starts with a vowel sound, so we say **an English teacher**. **At college** is used here without an article, like **at school**. Not **a English teacher**, because **a** is used only before a consonant sound.

11. We had _____ very nice meal. _____ vegetables were especially good.
✔ **D) a / the**
A very nice meal is mentioned for the first time. **The vegetables** are the specific vegetables in that meal, so we use **the**.

12. All _____ books on _____ top of the shelf belong to me.
✔ **C) the / the**
All the books means specific books, the ones on this shelf. **The top of the shelf** is one particular place, so it also takes **the**. Not **a top**, because a shelf has only one top.

13. If you live in _____ foreign country you should try and learn _____ language.
✔ **A) a / the**
A foreign country means any foreign country, not a specific one. **The language** is the language of that country, so it takes **the**.

14. Washington is situated on _____ Potomac River in _____ District of Columbia.
✔ **D) the / the**
Names of rivers take **the**: **the Potomac River**, **the Thames**. Names with **of** also take **the**: **the District of Columbia**.

15. There was a nut on the ground. David picked up _____ nut and hid it in _____ hole.
✔ **D) the / a**
The nut was already mentioned, so we say **the nut**. The hole is mentioned for the first time, so we say **a hole**.

16. Once _____ pupils of _____ fifth form read _____ book about Robin Hood.
✔ **C) the / the / a**
The pupils of the fifth form are a specific group, so both take **the**. **A book about Robin Hood** is mentioned for the first time, so we use **a**.

17. _____ concert began with _____ song about _____ peace and _____ work.
✔ **A) the / a / ____ / ____**
The concert is a specific concert. **A song** is mentioned for the first time. **Peace** and **work** are abstract ideas in general, so they have no article.

18. _____ penguins are birds that cannot fly, and most of them live in the Southern Hemisphere.
✓ **C) (no article)**
When we talk about animals in general, we use a plural noun with no article: **Penguins are birds…**, **Cats like fish.** Not **some**, because all penguins cannot fly, not only some of them. Not **a** or **an**, because **penguins** is plural.

19. France covers _____ area of 551,000 sq km.
✓ **D) an**
Cover an area of is a fixed phrase. **Area** starts with a vowel sound, so we use **an**, not **a**.

20. Open _____ books at _____ page 20 and read _____ text.
✓ **B) the / _____ / the**
The books are the specific books the class has. A noun with a number has no article: **page 20**. **The text** is the text on that page.

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