ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Articles (A, An, The) MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 5

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/articles-test-5/

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Explanations

1. You realize that _____ time to choose one job out of _____ hundreds has come.
✔ **A) the / _____**
We say **the time has come** because we mean this particular moment. **Hundreds** is a plural used in a general sense, so it takes no article: **out of hundreds**. Not **a time**, because the sentence is about one specific moment.

2. There were _____ three shelters on _____ cliff.
✔ **A) _____ / the**
A number with a plural noun introduced for the first time needs no article: **three shelters**. **The cliff** refers to the particular cliff in the scene. A singular countable noun like **cliff** can never stand without an article.

3. I saw _____ good deal of him during _____ war.
✔ **E) a / the**
A good deal of is a fixed phrase meaning 'a lot of': **I saw a good deal of him**. **The war** means a particular war that both speakers know about.

4. He sat down at _____ piano and played _____ same piece that he had played in the morning.
✔ **C) the / the**
We use **the** with musical instruments: **sit at the piano**, **play the piano**. **Same** always takes **the**: **the same piece**. The clause **that he had played in the morning** also shows exactly which piece. Not **a**, because we never say **a same**.

5. _____ doctor says _____ child must eat _____ apple _____ day.
✔ **E) the / the / an / a**
The doctor and **the child** are a particular doctor and child that we know about. **Apple** starts with a vowel sound, so we say **an apple**. **A day** means 'every day' or 'per day': **an apple a day**.

6. _____ Browns invited me to _____ dinner.
✔ **D) the / _____**
A family name in the plural takes **the**: **the Browns** (the whole Brown family). Names of meals usually take no article: **invite someone to dinner**, **have lunch**.

7. They went on _____ expedition to _____ North.
✔ **B) an / the**
Go on an expedition uses **an** because **expedition** starts with a vowel sound. Compass regions take **the**: **the North**, **the South**.

8. _____ Rome was not built in _____ day.
✔ **C) _____ / a**
Names of cities take no article: **Rome**. **In a day** means 'in one day'. The proverb **Rome was not built in a day** means that big things take time.

9. The beautiful child gave Pinocchio _____ some medicine and _____ piece of sugar.
✔ **C) _____ / a**
No article is used before **some**: **some medicine**. **Piece** is a countable noun mentioned for the first time, so it takes **a**: **a piece of sugar**.

10. Italy is in _____ South of _____ Europe, isn't it?
✔ **B) the / _____**
Parts of a country or continent take **the**: **in the south of Europe**. Names of continents take no article: **Europe**, **Asia**.

11. _____ West End is _____ richest part of _____ capital.
✔ **C) the / the / the**
The names of some districts take **the**: **the West End**. Superlatives take **the**: **the richest**. **The capital** is the one capital of the country, so it is specific.

12. - When will _____ next bus be?

- _____ next will be tomorrow morning.
✔ **B) the / the**
Next in the sense of the next one in a series takes **the**: **the next bus**. In the answer, **the next** (one) still means that particular bus, so it also takes **the**.

13. _____ Latin America is in _____ south of America.
✔ **B) _____ / the**
Most names of large regions take no article: **Latin America**, **North America**. Parts of a region take **the**: **in the south of America**.

14. Spring is _____ best season of _____ year.
✔ **D) the / the**
Superlatives take **the**: **the best**. We also say **the year** because it means the year as a whole: **the best season of the year**. Not **a year**, because there is no choice between years here.

15. _____ long walk in _____ country is very interesting.
✔ **A) a / the**
Walk is a countable noun used here for one walk in general, so it takes **a**: **a long walk**. **The country** means 'the countryside' (not the town) and always takes **the**: **in the country**.

16. _____ Smiths enjoyed their rest on the coast of _____ Black Sea last summer.
✔ **B) the / the**
A family name in the plural takes **the**: **the Smiths**. Names of seas take **the**: **the Black Sea**, **the Mediterranean**.

17. _____ “Queen Mary” is one of _____ biggest ships in the world.
✓ C) the / the
Names of ships take **the**: **the Titanic**, **the Queen Mary**. Superlatives take **the**: **one of the biggest**. Not the zero article, because ship names, unlike people's names, need **the**.

18. They stayed only _____ day at the hotel.
✓ A) a
A day means 'one day' here: **They stayed only a day**. Not **an**, because **day** starts with a consonant sound.

19. It is _____ holiday for all European people. _____ people have _____ two-day holiday.
✓ E) a / the / a
A holiday means one holiday among many. **The people** means the European people just mentioned. **A two-day holiday** is one holiday, so the singular countable noun takes **a**.

20. This is _____ lion that I saw in the circus yesterday.
✓ C) the
We use **the** when a clause tells us exactly which one: **the lion that I saw in the circus yesterday**. Not **a**, because the speaker means one particular lion.

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