ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Nouns – Articles Test A2 – B1 Grammar Exercises

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Explanations

1. I don't like shopping _____ because a lot of _____ go there.
✔ **C) centres / people**
A lot of tells us we need plural nouns, so we say **shopping centres** and **people**. **People** is already the plural of **person**. Not **persons**, which is very formal and not used here.

2. My mum made _____ sandwiches and _____ big chocolate cake for my birthday.
✔ **D) some / a**
Use **some** before plural nouns when the amount is not important: **some sandwiches**. Use **a** before one countable thing: **a big chocolate cake**.

3. She climbed up _____ stairs and walked towards _____ room where the meeting was taking place.
✔ **A) the / the**
Use **the** when we know which thing we mean. These are the stairs in that building, and the room is identified by **where the meeting was taking place**, so both need **the**.

4. I bought four _____ of water and two _____ of chocolate from the supermarket.
✔ **B) bottles / bars**
Water comes in **bottles** and chocolate comes in **bars**. After **four** and **two**, both words must be plural: **four bottles of water**, **two bars of chocolate**.

5. _____ life would be very difficult without electricity, technology and _____ Internet.
✔ **C) _____ / the**
Life in general takes no article: **Life is beautiful.** **The Internet** always takes **the**, because there is only one. Not **The life**, because we are talking about life in general.

6. A: Do you know the _____ who live next door?

B: No, I haven't met them yet, but I will visit them after I finish cleaning _____ house.
✔ **C) people / the**
Them shows there is more than one neighbour, so we need **people**. **The house** means B's own house, which both speakers know about, so we use **the**.

7. The famous ship _____ Titanic sank when it hit an iceberg in _____ Atlantic Ocean.
✔ **D) the / the**
Names of ships take **the**: **the Titanic**. Names of oceans also take **the**: **the Atlantic Ocean**, **the Pacific**. Not **in Atlantic Ocean**, because an ocean name always needs **the**.

8. We all decided to go _____ home because it was getting late and we had _____ classes the following day.
✔ **B) _____ / _____**
We say **go home** with no article. **Classes** is a plural noun used in a general way, so it needs no article either: **we had classes**.

9. A: Where is _____ Nile?

B: It's in _____ Africa.
✔ **C) the / _____**
Rivers take **the**: **the Nile**, **the Thames**. Continents take no article: **Africa**, **Europe**, **Asia**.

10. A: What can you see on the top _____?

B: I can see three _____ of jam.
✔ **A) shelf / jars**
The top shelf is one shelf, so it is singular. Jam comes in **jars**, and after **three** we need the plural: **three jars of jam**.

11. Silver, meat, _____, happiness, money and news are all examples of uncountable nouns.
✔ **C) advice**
Advice is uncountable. We cannot say **an advice** or **advices**; we say **some advice** or **a piece of advice**. **Dog**, **banana** and **window** are countable.

12. A: Could you play _____ volleyball when you were 10 years old?

B: Yes, I could, but I wasn't playing in _____ team then.
✔ **A) _____ / a**
Sports take no article: **play volleyball**, **play football**. **A team** means any team, not a particular one, so we use **a**. Not **the volleyball**, because sports never take **the**.

13. Elisa usually goes abroad once _____ year in the summer and visits historical _____.
✔ **B) a / sites**
Once a year means one time every year, so we use **a**. **Historical sites** is plural because she visits more than one place.

14. We have got enough _____, but we don't have enough _____ to make an apple pie.
✔ **D) apples / eggs**
Enough comes before plural countable nouns, with no article: **enough apples**, **enough eggs**. You need more than one of each to make a pie.

15. The chocolate _____ on the red plate costs the most; you pay 10 pounds for one small _____.
✔ **C) cake / slice**
Costs is singular, so we need one **cake**. We buy one piece of cake, which is a **slice**: **one small slice**.

16. The lady wanted to buy herself _____ pair of new red shoes, but they didn't have _____ her size.
✔ **C) a / ____**
We say **a pair of shoes**, using **a** because it is one pair. Before **her size** we use no article, because **her** already shows whose size it is. Not **the her size**.

17. _____ Newmans are going to Italy to visit some famous places, especially _____ Leaning Tower of Pisa.
✔ **D) The / the**
A family name in the plural takes **the**: **the Newmans**, meaning the Newman family. Some famous buildings also take **the**: **the Leaning Tower of Pisa**, **the Eiffel Tower**.

18. _____ mosquito is the most dangerous living creature in _____ world.
✔ **C) The / the**
Use **the** with a singular noun to talk about a whole kind of animal: **The mosquito is dangerous.** We also always say **the world**, because there is only one. Not **A** or **An**, because we mean all mosquitoes, not just one.

19. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured in the bus crash; only two _____ and a _____ were taken to hospital with minor injuries.
✔ **C) women / child**
After **two** we need the plural **women**, the plural of **woman**. After **a** we need the singular **child**.

20. Table, animal, _____, box, country and factory are all examples of countable nouns.
✔ **B) mistake**
Mistake is countable: **a mistake**, **two mistakes**. **Love**, **water** and **information** are uncountable, so we cannot count them.

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