ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Nouns – Articles Test B1 Grammar Exercises

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Explanations

1. I wasn't _____ only patient in the waiting room, so I looked through _____ magazines on the table to pass the time.
✔ **B) the / the**
Use **the** with **only**: **the only patient**. The magazines are specific, the ones **on the table**, so we say **the magazines**.

2. _____ Kizilirmak is the longest river and _____ Mount Agri is the highest mountain in Turkey.
✔ **C) The / _____**
Rivers take **the**: **the Kizilirmak**, **the Nile**. Single mountains with **Mount** take no article: **Mount Agri**, **Mount Everest**.

3. There wasn't any information on _____ departure time of _____ flight.
✔ **A) the / the**
Both nouns are specific and known: a flight has one departure time, and we know which flight is meant. So we use **the departure time of the flight**.

4. As it has _____ hostile environment, no human being can survive in _____ Antarctic.
✔ **D) a / the**
Environment is a singular countable noun described by an adjective, so we use **a**: **a hostile environment**. Polar regions take **the**: **the Antarctic**, **the Arctic**. Not **an**, because **hostile** starts with a consonant sound.

5. You get five _____ Coke from _____ one-litre bottle.
✔ **B) glasses of / a**
Coke is uncountable here, so we count it with a container: **five glasses of Coke** (plural after **five**). **One-litre** starts with a /w/ sound, so we use **a**: **a one-litre bottle**.

6. They brought _____ soft drinks when they came for _____ dinner.
✔ **C) some / _____**
Use **some** with plural nouns in positive sentences: **some soft drinks**. Meals take no article in fixed phrases: **come for dinner**, **have lunch**.

7. _____ apples were very expensive at the grocery store, so I only bought _____.
✔ **D) _____ / a kilo**
The sentence must end with a complete phrase: **I only bought a kilo** (= a kilo of apples). Not **a kilo of**, because **of** needs a noun after it.

8. Apart from _____ cheese and _____ bread, she hardly had anything to eat today.
✔ **A) a piece of / some**
Cheese and **bread** are uncountable, so we can't use **a** with them. We say **a piece of cheese** and **some bread**. Not **a loaf bread**, because we need **of**: **a loaf of bread**.

9. To make _____ cake, we need _____ milk, but we don't have any left.
✔ **B) the / a carton of**
Milk is uncountable, so we use a container: **a carton of milk**. **The cake** means the particular cake we want to make. Not **a slice of milk**, because **slice** is used for food like bread or cake.

10. I usually wear _____ jeans and _____ T-shirt in the summer.
✔ **D) a pair of / a**
Jeans is always plural, so we say **a pair of jeans**, not **a jeans**. **T-shirt** is a singular countable noun, so it takes **a**: **a T-shirt**.

11. _____ Stone Age was the longest of all _____ historical periods.
✔ **A) The / the**
Names of historical periods take **the**: **the Stone Age**, **the Middle Ages**. After **all** we can use **the** for a specific group: **all the historical periods**.

12. You can't have seen Jack at the cafe because he has been in _____ hospital for _____ weeks.
✔ **B) _____ / _____**
In British English we say **in hospital** (as a patient), with no article, like **at school** or **in prison**. **For weeks** means 'for many weeks', and **weeks** is plural, so it takes no article. Not **a weeks**, because **a** is never used with a plural noun.

13. _____ Niagara Falls are located on the border of Canada and _____ USA.
✔ **C) The / the**
Waterfalls are often used with **the** when the verb is plural: **The Niagara Falls are**. Country names with **States**, **Kingdom** or **Republic** always take **the**: **the USA**, **the UK**. Not **A**, because a famous name is not 'one of many'.

14. As he couldn't find his new trainers and was in _____ hurry, he had to put on his old _____.
✔ **D) a / ones**
Be in a hurry is a fixed phrase with **a**. We use **ones** instead of repeating a plural noun: **his old ones** = his old trainers.

15. Travelling by _____ train is both comfortable and fun if you have _____ time for it.
✔ **B) _____ / the**
We say **by train**, **by bus**, **by car**, with no article. **Have the time for something** means 'have enough time to do it'. Not **one time**, because **time** is uncountable here.

16. Doctors advise staying away from _____ pasta for _____ healthy life.
✔ **A) _____ / a**
Pasta in general is uncountable, so it takes no article. Before an adjective + noun like **healthy life**, we use **a**: **a healthy life**. Not **an**, because **healthy** starts with a consonant sound.

17. We will visit _____ Louvre Museum today after we take _____ trip to Notre Dame Cathedral.
✔ **C) the / a**
Most museums take **the**: **the Louvre**, **the British Museum**. **Take a trip** is a common phrase with **a**.

18. Last month he went down with _____ flu and took _____ week to recover from it.
✔ **A) _____ / a**
We say **go down with flu** (or **the flu**), but never **a flu**. **A week** means one week. Not **the / some**, because **some week** is wrong here.

19. It has been claimed that _____ French have been eating frog legs since _____ 12th century.
✔ **B) the / the**
The + nationality adjective means all the people of a country: **the French**, **the British**. Centuries take **the**: **the 12th century**.

20. _____ earth is constantly reforming its surface through rain and wind, while _____ moon has very little weather to change its appearance.
✔ **D) The / the**
There is only one earth and one moon, so we use **the**: **the earth**, **the moon**, **the sun**. Not **an** or **a**, because we don't mean one of many moons, and **moon** starts with a consonant sound.

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