Articles: A, An and The — Worksheet

30 exercises · Level A1–A2 · Answer key on the last page Free for classroom use

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Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Choose the correct option (a–d) for each gap or question. Check yourself with the answer key on the last page.

1. What _____ honest answer! Thank you.
   a) a b) the c) — d) an

2. Is there _____ university in your town?
   a) a b) an c) the d) —

3. We have a short break once _____ hour.
   a) a b) an c) the d) —

4. I'm looking for _____ umbrella. Do you have one?
   a) an b) a c) the d) —

5. She gets paid twice _____ month.
   a) an b) a c) the d) —

6. What _____ useful tip! I'll try it tomorrow.
   a) an b) the c) — d) a

7. My brother wants to be _____ engineer when he grows up.
   a) a b) the c) an d) —

8. I saw _____ owl in our garden last night — I'd never seen one here before.
   a) a b) an c) the d) —

9. I bought a lamp and a rug yesterday. _____ lamp was really cheap.
   a) A b) An c) The d) —

10. Could you close _____ door behind you, please?
    a) a b) the c) an d) —

11. _____ moon looks huge and orange tonight.
    a) A b) An c) The d) —

12. Who is _____ best student in your class?
    a) the b) a c) an d) —

13. Can you pass me _____ salt, please?
    a) a b) an c) — d) the

14. This is _____ first time I've flown on a plane.
    a) a b) the c) an d) —

15. We sailed across _____ Atlantic last summer.

a) the b) a c) an d) —

16. My cousin has lived in _____ United States for years.

a) a b) an c) the d) —

17. They moved to _____ Canada when she was ten.

a) — b) the c) a d) an

18. She went to _____ bed at ten o'clock last night.

a) the b) a c) an d) —

19. What time do you usually have _____ lunch?

a) the b) a c) — d) an

20. We usually travel to work by _____ train.

a) the b) — c) a d) an

21. _____ honesty is very important in a friendship.

a) The b) An c) A d) —

22. She speaks _____ Spanish and a little Italian.

a) the b) — c) a d) an

23. I love _____ music, but I didn't like the music at the party.

a) — b) the c) a d) an

24. _____ coffee you made this morning was delicious.

a) A b) An c) — d) The

25. The airport is _____ hour's drive from here.

a) a b) the c) an d) —

26. Which sentence is correct?

a) She is an university student.
b) She is a university student.
c) She is university student.
d) She is a university's student.

27. Which sentence is correct?

a) I usually go to bed at eleven.
b) I usually go to the bed at eleven.
c) I usually go to a bed at eleven.
d) I usually go to bed at the eleven.

28. Which sentence is correct?

a) The life is too short to worry about everything.
b) Life is a too short to worry about everything.
c) Life is too short to worry about the everything.
d) Life is too short to worry about everything.

29. Which sentence is correct?

a) We had a dinner at an Italian restaurant.
b) We had dinner at a Italian restaurant.
c) We had dinner at an Italian restaurant.
d) We had the dinner at Italian restaurant.

30. Which sentence is correct?

a) The Mount Everest is in the Himalayas.
b) Mount Everest is in the Himalayas.
c) Mount Everest is in Himalayas.
d) The Mount Everest is in Himalayas.

Answer Key

Articles: A, An and The · Explanations are shortened — the full interactive version is at gramvoy.com/exercises/articles-a-an-the/

1. d) an

Honest starts with a vowel sound — the h is silent — so an.

2. a) a

University starts with the sound /j/, like you — a consonant sound — so a, even though the first letter is a vowel.

3. b) an

Here a/an means per: once an hour, twice a week.

4. a) an

Umbrella starts with a vowel sound, so an.

5. b) a

A/an can mean per: twice a month, three times a week.

6. d) a

Useful starts with the sound /j/, so a, not an: a useful tip, like a university.

7. c) an

Jobs take a/an: She wants to be a doctor.

8. b) an

Something new to the listener takes a/an, and owl starts with a vowel sound: an owl.

9. c) The

The lamp has already been mentioned (a lamp and a rug), so now we know which one: The lamp.

10. b) the

We both know which door — the one behind you — so the door.

11. c) The

There is only one moon in our sky, so the moon, like the sun and the sky.

12. a) the

Superlatives take the: the best student, the tallest building.

13. d) the

Both people know which salt is meant — the salt on the table — so the.

14. b) the

First, last and only take the, like superlatives: the first time.

15. a) the

Oceans and seas take the: the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Mediterranean.

16. c) the

Country names with states, kingdom or republic take the: the United States, the United Kingdom.

17. a) —

Most country names take no article: in Canada, in Spain, in Japan.

18. d) —

Go to bed is a fixed phrase with no article — it means going to sleep, not to a particular piece of furniture.

19. c) —

Meals in general take no article: have lunch, have breakfast, at dinner.

20. b) —

By + a means of transport takes no article: by train, by bus, by car.

21. d) —

Honesty is an uncountable noun used in a general sense, so no article: Honesty is important.

22. b) —

Languages take no article: She speaks Spanish.

23. a) —

Music in general takes no article: I love music.

24. d) The

The coffee is specific — the coffee you made this morning — so The.

25. c) an

Hour starts with a vowel sound (the h is silent), so an hour's drive — the airport is one hour away by car.

26. b) She is a university student.

University begins with the sound /j/, a consonant sound, so a university student.

27. a) I usually go to bed at eleven.

Go to bed is a fixed phrase without an article: I usually go to bed at eleven.

28. d) Life is too short to worry about everything.

Life in general takes no article: Life is too short… Everything is a pronoun and never takes the.

29. c) We had dinner at an Italian restaurant.

Italian starts with a vowel sound, so an Italian restaurant, and a meal in general takes no article: We had dinner.

30. b) Mount Everest is in the Himalayas.

A single mountain usually takes no article (Mount Everest), but a mountain range does (the Himalayas, the Alps).