

3A Indefinite and definite articles

In completely general statements with uncountable nouns, do not use an article before the noun. However, *the* is required when the noun is made more specific by a modifying phrase following it. **Ethics** is becoming an important part of the field of genetics.

The ethics of cloning should be addressed by experts in the field.

Image is an important part of success.

The image she projected did not serve her well in court.

With certain exceptions, do not use *the* before:

countries (exceptions: *the Philippines*, *the United Arab Emirates*, *the United Kingdom*, *the United States*)

streets and cities (exception: *the Hague*)

individual lakes, bays, islands, continents, mountain peaks (exception: *the Matterhorn*)

Do use *the* before:

rivers, oceans, seas, gulfs, mountain ranges, peninsulas, deserts, forests

1 Do the nouns in these sentences require a definite article? Write *the*, or *X* if none is needed.

1. A large number of oil wells have been drilled in the Gulf of Mexico.
2. There is no room for ___ frivolity when discussing ___ safety of nuclear power.
3. ___ United States utilizes more genetically modified food than ___ Europe does.
4. You shouldn't expect ___ confidentiality when you upload anything to the Internet.
5. In a moment, our experimental driverless vehicle will turn right on ___ Elm Street.
6. Many people do not believe that ___ rights of animals should be protected.
7. A global warming monitoring station is located on top of ___ Mount Rutherford.
8. I think ___ human error is to blame for the majority of aircraft accidents.

2 Review the rules for articles on page 19. Then fill in the blanks with a definite article, an indefinite article, or *X* if none is needed. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

(1) X Energy seems to be on everyone's mind these days. (2) ___ people are worried because they know that petroleum reserves are not infinite. It's also alarming that (3) ___ temperature of the earth seems to be rising year by year. Many scientists blame (4) ___ warming of the earth on (5) ___ burning of petroleum-based fuels.

However, there is no reason to give up (6) ___ hope, as (7) ___ alternatives are available. One example is (8) ___ wind farm, a collection of wind turbines that turn wind energy into electric power. Another example is (9) ___ hydroelectric facilities, which change (10) ___ energy created by moving water into electric power. (11) ___ hydroelectric facility on (12) ___ Paraná River in Brazil generates about 20 percent of the power used in the country. A final example is (13) ___ solar power. It is one of (14) ___ cleanest sources of energy and is attracting (15) ___ attention as well. Many countries, including (16) ___ United Arab Emirates, (17) ___ Spain, and (18) ___ India have built large solar power plants.

Lastly, it's important that we all conserve energy. Take (19) ___ moment to shut off and unplug any electrical items when you leave (20) ___ room.