

## Grammar articles

### ► ARTICLES *a/an, the, or no article*

- 1 *In 1978, China started planting a wall of trees. Now the wall has about 66 billion trees.*
- 2 *It's the largest hot desert in the world.*
- 3 *The Gobi Desert is getting bigger.*
- 4 *Countries in Africa plan to build a wall.*
- 5 *People know about the Great Wall of China.*

For more information and practice, see page 164.

### Articles (*a/an, the, or no article*)

We use *a/an*:

- to talk about something that isn't specific.  
*Have you got a pen?* (not a particular pen)
- the first time we mention something.  
*I saw an eagle yesterday.*

We use *the*:

- the second time we mention something.  
*A man and a woman were waiting for us at the airport.*  
*The man helped us with our suitcases.*
- when something is unique.  
*The sun looked really beautiful from the top of the mountain.*
- with superlatives.  
*It was the best vacation of my life.*
- with the names of some places, such as oceans (e.g., *the Atlantic Ocean*), deserts (e.g., *the Sahara Desert*), and mountain ranges (e.g., *the Himalayas*).

We use no article:

- to talk about plural or uncountable nouns in general.  
*I never stay in (-) hotels because they're so expensive.*  
*(-) Tourism brings a lot of money to the area.*
- with the names of most places, for example, the names of continents, countries, cities, and lakes.

8 Read about another way to manage the environment. Circle the correct options. Circle “–” if no article is needed.



### Ice towers

In the spring and summer, there is often a water shortage in <sup>1</sup>the / – Himalayan mountains. So during the winter, <sup>2</sup>a / – people make ice towers. They put one end of <sup>3</sup>a / – long pipe into a river high in the mountains, and then they take the other end of <sup>4</sup>a / the pipe down to a village. The water comes out of the pipe and freezes in a fountain to create <sup>5</sup>– / an ice tower in the village. When the ice tower melts in the spring, <sup>6</sup>a / – farmers can use it to water their fields.

10 Work in pairs. Look at these questions from a general knowledge quiz. Complete the questions with *a/an* or *the* where necessary. Then try to answer the questions.

#### Around the world quiz

- 1 There is \_\_\_\_\_ river that flows through parts of \_\_\_\_\_ Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador. What is its name?
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ White House is in \_\_\_\_\_ USA. Who lives there?
- 3 There is \_\_\_\_\_ natural satellite that goes around \_\_\_\_\_ Earth every day. What is it?
- 4 In 1998, Larry Page and Sergey Brin set up \_\_\_\_\_ global search engine. What is its name?
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Arctic Ocean is \_\_\_\_\_ smallest ocean in the world. Which is \_\_\_\_\_ largest?