

## 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.