3. Another word like a possessive adjective may be used instead of the article or vice versa.

Example: The new (A) island of Surtsey (B) is its ideal (C) natural laboratory for scientists. (D)

The best answer is (C). The indefinite article *an* meaning "one" must be used.

Example: Coral reefs (A) are limestone formations (B) composed of tiny sea organisms (C) and the remains. (D)

The best answer is (D). The possessive adjective *their* must replace the definite article *the* to show its reference to sea organisms.

Exercises on Articles

From the four underlined words or phrases (A), (B), (C), or (D), identify the one that is not correct.

1. The watt (A) is named after James Watt, the British (B) engineer who developed the steam engine (C) in 1760s. (D)
2. Methane (A) is a odorless (B) burning gas and is the main (C) ingredient of natural gas. (D)
3. The alcohol (A) acts as a narcotic (B) on the nervous system (C) and the brain. (D)
4. Zachary Taylor was first president (A) to be elected from a state (B) west (C) of the Mississippi River. (D)
5. Barnacles (A), which are related to lobsters (B), shrimp, and crabs (C), make strongest glue. (D)
6. In the 1860s (A) Louis Pasteur discovered that bacteria (B) in air caused the perishable food (C) to go bad. (D)

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7. Land (A) covers almost third (B) of the earth's (C) surface, of which two-thirds (D) is too cold or too dry for farming.

8. "Old Faithful" (A) in the Yellowstone National Park (B) is probably the world's (C) most famous (D) geyser.

9. Thermographs (A) are special pictures that show the variation (B) in heat (C) emitted by different areas of body (D).

10. The world's (A) fastest animal is cheetah (B), but if birds are included, the fastest (C) of all animals is the spine-tailed (D) swift.

11. The most (A) of the energy (B) used in our homes and factories is generated from coal (C), oil (D), and natural gas.

12. Soybeans (A) were first grown in the Orient (B) and brought to the Western (C) world during the World War Two (D).

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