10 Nouns – Articles

A / An – The

- **A / An is used only with singular countable nouns to talk about things in general. We don't use a / an with uncountable or plural nouns. We can use some instead. A / An is often used after the verbs be and have.** ***A*** *dog is* ***a*** *domestic animal.* (Which dog? Dogs in general.) *Bring me* ***some*** *milk, please!*
- **We can use a / an or the before a singular countable noun to refer to a class of people, animals or things. However, we omit a / an or the before a noun in the plural when it represents a class.** ***A / The*** *dolphin is a mammal.* **Also:** ***Dolphins*** *are mammals.* **Exception:** ***Man*** *is a mammal, too.* (NOT: ~~*The man*~~)
- **The is used with singular and plural nouns, countable and uncountable ones, to talk about something specific or when the noun is mentioned for a second time.**
  Whose is ***the*** *van parked in front of our house?* (Which van? The one parked in front of our house.)
  He found a cat in the park. He took ***the*** *cat home.* (The word 'cat' is mentioned for a second time.)
- **The is also used with the words beach, cinema, country(side), ground, jungle, radio, sea, seaside, theatre, world, etc.** *He likes going to* ***the*** *theatre.* **We usually say *television* without *the*.** *We often watch television.* **but:** *Turn on* ***the*** *television (set).* **We also say:** *He lives near* ***the sea.*** **but:** *They are* ***at sea*** (= they are sailing). **We normally omit *the* before the words last and next when we talk about a period of time immediately before or after the moment of speaking.**
  He graduated ***last*** *year. I'll meet you* ***next*** *week. I went to the gym on Saturday but* ***the next*** *day I stayed at home.*

11 Fill in: *a, an* or *the*.

1) ...The... tiger is 2) ..... large carnivorous animal which belongs to 3) ..... cat family. 4) ..... males are about three feet high and have 5) ..... length of about twelve feet, including their tail. There are about eight varieties of tiger found around 6) ..... world. They live in 7) ..... jungle where water and food is plentiful. 8) ..... tiger will only attack 9) ..... person if it is starving or if it is threatened. It is 10) ..... easily recognised animal as it has 11) ..... impressive thick yellow or white coat with distinctive black stripes.

12 Fill in the gaps with *a, an* or *the*.

Butter Biscuit Recipes

Ingredients
1 egg
200 gr butter
2 cups flour
1/2 cup sugar

Oven temperature: 180 °C
Cooking Time: 20 minutes

1 In ..a.... large bowl, mix ..... flour and sugar.
2 Add ..... egg.
3 Heat ..... butter in ..... frying pan and add it to ..... mixture.
4 Stir well, then separate ..... mixture into balls and place them on ..... tray.
5 Bake ..... biscuits in ..... oven at 180°C for 20 minutes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The is used before:	*The* is omitted before:
• **nouns which are unique.** *the Earth, the Eiffel Tower* • **names of cinemas** *(the Rex)*, **hotels** *(the Sheraton)*, **theatres** *(the Apollo)*, **museums** *(the Prado)*, **newspapers / magazines** *(The Guardian,* **but:** *(Newsweek, Time Magazine)*, **ships** *(the Marie Celeste)*, **institutions** *(the RSPCA)*, **galleries** *(the Tate Gallery)*. • **names of rivers** *(the Seine)*, **seas** *(the Black Sea)*, **groups of islands / states** *(the Bahamas, the USA)*, **mountain ranges** *(the Alps)*, **deserts** *(the Sahara desert)*, **oceans** *(the Atlantic)* **and names or nouns with of** *(the Tower of London, the Statue of Liberty)*. **Note:** *the North / South Pole, the north of England, the South / West / North / East* • **musical instruments, dances.** *the piano, the tango* • **names of families** *(the Browns)*, **nationalities ending in -sh, -ch or -ese** *(the English, the Dutch, the Japanese)*. **Other plural nationalities are used with or without *the*** *(the) Greeks, (the) Italians, etc.)*. • **titles** *(the Queen, the Prince)*. ***The* is omitted before titles with proper names** *(Queen Victoria)*. • **the superlative degree of adjectives / adverbs.** *She's the **tallest** girl in her class.* • **the words *station, shop, cinema, library, city, village*, etc.** *She went to **the station** to see Jim off.* • ***morning, afternoon, evening, night.*** *I'll be at home in **the** evening.* **but: *at night, at noon, at midnight, by day / night, at 4 o'clock***, etc.	• **proper nouns.** ***Jim*** *comes from* ***New York.*** • **names of sports, games, activities, days, months, holidays, colours, meals and languages (not followed by the word *language*).** *She plays squash well. She likes red. We speak English.* **but: *The*** *English* ***language*** *is spoken all over the world.* • **names of countries** *(Italy)*, **cities** *(Rome)*, **streets** *(Oxford Street,* **but:** *the High Street)*, **parks** *(Hyde Park)*, **stations** *(Victoria Station)*, **mountains** *(Everest)*, **islands** *(Cyprus)*, **lakes** *(Lake Michigan)*, **continents** *(Europe)* **but:** *the Argentine, the Netherlands, (the) Sudan, the Hague, the Vatican.* • **possessive adjectives.** *This isn't your bag.* • **bed, church, college, court, hospital, prison, school, university, when we refer to the purpose for which they exist.** *Tom goes to school.* (He is a student.) **but:** *His mother went to **the school** yesterday to get his report.* (She went to the school as a visitor.) **Note: *work* (place of work) never takes *the*.** *She's at **work**.* • **the words *home, father / mother* when we talk about our own home / parents.** ***Mother*** *is at* ***home***. • **means of transport: *by bus / by car / by train / by plane*, etc. but: *in the car, on the bus / train*, etc.** *She travelled **by plane**.* **but:** *She left **on the 6 o'clock plane** yesterday.* • **illnesses.** *He's got malaria.* But we say: ***flu / the flu, measles / the measles, mumps / the mumps***

13 **Fill in *the* where necessary.**

Did you know ... ?

1 ..*The*.. largest volcano in ..... world is Mauna Loa in ..... Hawaii.
2 ..... Earth is 3.68 times bigger than ..... Moon.
3 It snowed in ..... Sahara desert on February 18, 1979.
4 More than half ..... population of Kenya is under ..... age of 15.
5 Cleopatra wasn't ..... Egyptian, she was ..... Greek.
6 There are ten towns named ..... Hollywood in ..... USA.
7 The filming of *Titanic* cost more than ..... Titanic itself.
8 ..... Europe is the only continent without a desert.
9 ..... Venus is ..... hottest planet in our solar system.
10 Hair grows faster in ..... morning than at any other time of ..... day.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

10 Nouns – Articles

14 Fill in: *a*, *an* or *the* where necessary.

1 A: George, have you ever been to ..–.. Amsterdam?
B: Yes, I was there during half term. We stayed at ..the.. Art Gallery Hotel.

2 A: Were you at yesterday's ..... football match?
B: No, but I saw it on ..... TV. What ..... amazing game!

3 A: What's ..... name of ..... hotel you're staying at?
B: ..... King's Cross. It's ..... old hotel but it's next to ..... train station on William Street.

4 A: I read that ..... Mayor is going to open ..... new youth centre.
B: Yes, next Friday. We should go!

5 A: Did you do a lot of sightseeing when you were in ..... Athens?
B: Of course. We saw ..... Acropolis, ... Ancient Theatre of Dionysus and we visited ..... extraordinary area called Plaka.

6 A: This is my friend ..... Irma.
B: It's ..... pleasure to meet you.

7 A: What do you know about ..... Machu Picchu?
B: It's ..... ancient city found in ..... Andes Mountains in ..... Peru.

8 A: What ..... language course are you taking this term?
B: ..... Chinese but I find it's ..... very difficult language to learn.

9 A: Is this ..... Barbara's dictionary?
B: No, it's ..... mine.

10 A: I called you yesterday but nobody answered.
B: We visited my grandmother who's in ..... hospital.

11 A: Have you ever seen ..... live tiger or ..... gorilla?
B: Yes, I have. At ..... city zoo!

12 A: Where is ..... Barbados?
B: In ..... Caribbean.

13 A: What did you see on your tour today?
B: ..... Sydney Opera House and ..... Blue Mountains.

15 Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space.

Tibet

Tibet is in 1) ..–.. East Asia, north of the Himalayas. It is the highest region on earth and is sometimes called, "the roof of the world". Tibet has some of 2) ..... world's tallest mountains, including Mount Everest, which 3) ..... on the border with Nepal.

It is 4) ..... magical tourist destination full of green lakes and beautiful snow-capped mountains. Places like Lake Namatso and the Yangtse River attract thousands of visitors each year.

Tibet 5) ..... a long and rich history. Tourists will enjoy travelling to 6) ..... Lhasa, the capital of Tibet. If you go there, you 7) ..... a taste of Tibet's magic and charm. Don't forget to visit Lhasa's greatest attractions, 8) ..... Potala Palace and the Jokhang Temple. Take the chance 9) ..... the traditions of the Tibetian people 10) ..... warmth and hospitality is known all over the world.

1	A an	B the	C –
2	A the	B –	C a
3	A finds	B found	C is found
4	A –	B the	C a
5	A is having	B has	C has had
6	A –	B a	C the
7	A get	B would have got	C will get
8	A the	B –	C a
9	A experiencing	B to experience	C experience
10	A whose	B who	C which

LIVEWORKSHEETS

16 **Read the text and fill in *a*, *an* or *the* where necessary.**

Popular Tourist Destinations and Attractions

- 1) .*The*. island of Bali is 2) ..... exciting holiday destination located in 3) ..... Indonesia. Many tourists travel there each year to explore its magnificent coral reefs and white sandy beaches.
- 4) ..... Delphi, lying on the slopes of 5) ..... Mt Parnassus is 6) ..... famous archaeological site in 7) ..... Greece. Some of the ruins that you can see there today are 8) ..... Temple of Apollo, 9) ..... gymnasium, the stadium and the theatre.
- 10) ..... Ice Hotel at 11) ..... Balea Lake in 12) ..... Romania is the first ice hotel in 13) ..... Eastern Europe. It was built in 2006 deep in 14) ..... Fagaras Mountains, at 15) ..... altitude of 2,034 metres.

17 **Filling *a*, *an* or *the* where necessary.**

Dear Nicole,

Hi. How are you? My family and I just came back from Japan and we had such 1) ..*a*... fantastic time!

Japan is 2) ..... extraordinary country rich in culture and tradition. We stayed at 3) ..... traditional Japanese hotel in 4) ..... Asakusa. This gave us the chance to experience Japanese customs and taste 5) ..... local cuisine. Luckily, our hotel was only 6) ..... fifteen-minute walk from 7) ..... city centre.

Tokyo is 8) ..... city full of modern architecture. First, we went to 9) ..... Tokyo Tower from where we had 10) ..... wonderful view of the city. Next, we went to 11) ..... Tokyo National Museum which has 12) ..... enormous collection of Japanese Art. On the last day, we went shopping. Shopping is 13) ..... extremely popular activity in Tokyo and not just for 14) ..... travellers.

Well, that's all my news. Write back soon.

Jill

Speaking Activity

(talking about a place)

In pairs, ask and answer about an interesting trip you went on. Talk about:

• time • place • who with • transport • activities • feelings

A: Last month, I went on holiday to Rome.

B: Who did you go with? etc.

Writing Activity

Write an email to your friend about an interesting trip you went on using your answers from the Speaking Activity. Use Ex. 17 as a model.

Dear .....,

Hi. How are you? ..... and I just came back from .....

and we had such a great time! .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS