Unit 14

Grammar

Articles

a (indefinite article)

Form

Use	Example
singular countable nouns (not specific)	*I need to get **a** new coat.*

an (indefinite article)

Form

Use	Example
instead of *a* when the next word begins with a vowel sound	*I don't have enough money for **an** expensive dress.*

Watch out! Whether we use *a* or *an* with a word depends on the sound, not the spelling. Be careful with the following words and phrases.

- *an honest person* • *an hour* • *a euro* • *a uniform*

the (definite article)

Form

Use	Example
singular countable nouns (specific)	*Let's go to **the** new shopping centre.*
plural countable nouns (specific)	*Where are **the** books I ordered?*
uncountable nouns (specific)	*I gave the shop assistant **the** money and then left.*

No article (zero article)

Form

Use	Example
plural countable nouns (general)	*Prices have gone up a lot recently.*
uncountable nouns (general)	*Fresh fruit is really good for you.*

Special rules

Form

Use	Example
places	**the**: seas (**the** *Atlantic*), rivers (**the** *Amazon*), areas (**the** *Antarctic*), some countries (**the** *USA*, **the** *UK*), public buildings (**the** *theatre*), **the** *Earth*, **the** *world*, **the** *sky*, **the** *moon*, **the** *sun*, **the** *sea*, **the** *environment* **no article**: towns and cities (*Moscow*), most countries (*France*), continents (*Europe*), streets (*Baker Street*), planets (*Mars*)
activities	**a/an**: *have **a** job, work as **a** …* **the**: *on **the** radio, **the** media, play **the** piano* **no article**: *go to work, on TV, go shopping, play tennis, listen to music, go to work, go to school, be at school, be at university*, school subjects (*maths*)
time	**the**: *in **the** morning/afternoon/evening, on **the** 20th March, in **the** 1950s* **no article**: days (*Thursday*), months (*May*), years (*2009*), *at night*
people	**the**: **the** *King*, **the** *Prime Minister*, **the** *army*, **the** *navy*, **the** *police*, **the** *Germans*, **the** *English* **no article**: *become king, he's English, speak English*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Complete using *a*, *an* or *the*.

1 We had ..... really good science lesson at school today.
2 I found ..... unusual insect on the wall outside our house.
3 It's your birthday next week. Are you going to have ..... party?
4 We waited for hours, but we finally saw ..... Queen.
5 Why don't we listen to ..... radio?
6 Have you got ..... euro I could borrow?
7 Mum has gone to ..... bank, but she'll be back soon.
8 Where have you been? I've been waiting for over ..... hour!

B Write an article in each gap where necessary. If an article is not necessary, put a dash (–).

I had (**1**) .....
really bad day on (**2**) ..... Tuesday.
I bought (**3**) ..... new game on CD-ROM for my computer,
but (**4**) ..... game didn't work properly. I took it back to
(**5**) ..... shop on (**6**) ..... North Street, but
(**7**) ..... manager blamed me! He pointed to
(**8**) ..... scratch on (**9**) ..... CD-ROM
and said I'd done it. I couldn't believe it! I had
to buy (**10**) ..... new one!

C Circle the extra word in each sentence.

1 Do you think we will ever send a person to the Mars?
2 When you go to the London, don't forget to see the London Eye.
3 When we use the cars, we damage the environment.
4 I'm not telling a lies! It's the truth.
5 I'm looking for a teacher who can teach me the German.
6 Ray needs a warm hat and a new coat for his visit to the Russia.
7 Dad has gone to a work and forgotten the car keys.
8 Some people have an unusual pets, such as lions or tigers.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D **In each sentence there is a word missing. Put an arrow (↑) to show where the missing word should go and write the word.**

1 English music was popular in America in 1960s. .....
2 Would you prefer to read book or watch television? .....
3 We had maths at school yesterday and our teacher gave us surprise test! .....
4 Peter joined police and caught ten thieves in his first month! .....
5 Gordon wanted to be writer, so he studied English at university. .....
6 Suddenly, two UFOs appeared in sky over Washington. .....

E **Rewrite the sentences correctly, adding articles where necessary.**

1 We had great time in USA.
.....
2 Let's go to Belgium for week this summer.
.....
3 Where's money I gave you on fifteenth of last month?
.....
4 I'd like to join army and become soldier.
.....
5 For Christmas, I got book, DVD and latest CD by my favourite band.
.....
6 They say that English drink lot of tea.
.....
7 I heard song on radio that I really liked.
.....
8 Do Japanese and other people in Asia eat cheese?
.....

F **Underline ten mistakes in the dialogue and correct them.**

Gary: It's the lovely day, isn't it? Let's walk down to a shops and look around.

Helen: That's an good idea. I'll just have a look in a kitchen and see what we need.

Gary: I got a milk yesterday, so we don't need any more. We might need a bread, though.

Helen: Okay. Bread ... oh, and the packet of sugar. After shopping, we could go to a new market in a town centre and see what they have.

Gary: Right. You get your coat and I'll get a car keys.

LIVEWORKSHEETS