

## A ? An? The?

Try this exercise, putting a/an/the in the blanks. If there should be no article, then place a - in the blank.

Mr Coleman was (1) \_\_\_\_ very fastidious person. He lived three (2) \_\_\_\_ streets away from us, in (3) \_\_\_\_ small house with (4) \_\_\_\_ beautiful garden. Having taken early retirement from his (5) \_\_\_\_ job as (6) \_\_\_\_ button counter, he now had plenty of time to worry, and this he did very successfully. He often spent sleepless nights trying to figure out how he could successfully cook both sides of (7) \_\_\_\_ omelette without it breaking, or how he might achieve better access to (8) \_\_\_\_ tins at (9) \_\_\_\_ back of his cupboard. (10) \_\_\_\_ most of his home was exceptionally neat and tidy, but several loose cables behind (11) \_\_\_\_ television set bothered him, and he never quite knew what to do with (12) \_\_\_\_ empty plastic bags. Then, one day, his life changed, and he began to experience some relief from his anguish. It seemed that other people underwent similar mental trials, for (13) \_\_\_\_ new catalogue appeared on his doorstep. (14) \_\_\_\_ catalogue contained solutions for many of his problems, and for others which had not yet given him any cause for concern. There was (15) \_\_\_\_ set of three egg timers, for example, shaped like (16) \_\_\_\_ chickens and designed to emit (17) \_\_\_\_ clucking sound at (18) \_\_\_\_ end of three, four and five minutes respectively. In this way he could cook (19) \_\_\_\_ eggs to suit each of his friends individually, and then keep them warm with (20) \_\_\_\_ specially designed covers which went with the timer, marked '3', '4' and '5' for identification

purposes. And (21) \_\_\_\_ catalogue contained many other wonderful ideas, such as (22) \_\_\_\_ toaster which could be adjusted to produce different degrees of brownness on (23) \_\_\_\_ four slices toasted simultaneously, and (24) \_\_\_\_ photo frame that rotated pictures at (25) \_\_\_\_ touch of (26) \_\_\_\_ invisible button, so that visiting relatives would never be offended by not seeing their pictures on display, unless, of course, they all turned up together - Mr Coleman eventually solved this problem too by ordering four frames.