I.3 Articles

We use *a* when we talk about something for the first time. We use *the* if we mention it again.

I've got a cat and a dog. The cat is black and white.

We use *the* when it is clear what we are talking about, perhaps because there is only one of them.

Let's go to the park. (There's only one park near here.)
Pass me the cup. (I'm pointing to it.)
Look at the moon!
She's the tallest person in her class.

We use *a* to say what someone's job is.

My uncle is a taxi driver.

We don't use an article when we are making a generalisation.

I don't like spicy food.
NOT ~~I don't like the spicy food.~~ ✗

We use *a* to mean 'per' or 'in each'.

She earns £10 an hour.
There are only two buses a day into town.

Some set expressions include *the*:

at the weekend, in the morning / afternoon / evening, listen to the radio, go to the cinema, play the guitar

Some set expressions don't have an article:

on Monday, at night, watch TV, listen to music, go to bed, go to school / work, be at home / at work / in hospital / at university, have breakfast / lunch / dinner

Read the dialogue. Tick the correct answers.

Paddy What are you doing at [1]___ weekend?
Ellie I'm going caving. There's [2]___ great place for it in the mountains near my uncle's house.
Paddy It's [3]___ dangerous hobby, isn't it?
Ellie Not really. My uncle is [4]___ rock climbing instructor. He says [5]___ caving is safer than [6]___ climbing.
Paddy I'd love to learn how to climb.
Ellie My uncle could teach you, but he charges £25 [7]___ hour.
Paddy I can't afford that. But I think there's [8]___ indoor climbing wall in town. I could practise there.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 ☐ a	☐ the
2 ☐ a	☐ no article
3 ☐ a	☐ the
4 ☐ a	☐ no article
5 ☐ the	☐ no article
6 ☐ the	☐ no article
7 ☐ an	☐ no article
8 ☐ an	☐ the

Complete the text with *a / an*, *the*, or no article (–).

This man is inside [1]a cave. He's [2]_____ professional caver, but he's still feeling nervous. Why? Because [3]_____ cave is much bigger than it looks. In fact, it's [4]_____ deepest cave in the world. It's called [5]_____ Krubera Cave, and it's near [6]_____ Black Sea. It is [7]_____ only cave on Earth that is more than 2 km deep. Caves like this are fascinating places for [8]_____ explorers because there are always new parts to discover. In 2005, [9]_____ Ukrainian caver called Alexander Klimchouk organised [10]_____ expedition into the cave. [11]_____ expedition involved 56 people and went deeper than 2 km. In 2012, a Ukrainian diver called Gennady Samokhin went even deeper by diving down through the muddy water at [12]_____ bottom.

LIVEWORKSHEETS