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.

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 ¹a 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.