

ARTICLES

a/an + countable noun

We use **a** or **an** to talk about...

1 jobs or professions:

(1) _____

2 something for the first time, when it has not been mentioned before:

(2) _____

the + countable or uncountable noun

We use **the**...

3 to talk about a specific member of a group, often when it has already been mentioned:

(3) _____

4 when there is only one of something or it is obvious what we are referring to:

(4) _____

5 before a noun that is unique in the world, e.g., **the sky**, **the moon**:

(5) _____

6 to talk about a specific group of people:

the Japanese, **the unemployed**,

(6) _____

7 with ordinal numbers and superlatives: **the first offer**,

(7) _____

8 when we refer to something "in general," rather than giving a specific example:

(8) _____

9 with the names of continents, regions, most countries, individual mountains and lakes:

Africa, **Asia**, **Thailand**, **Mount Fuji**, **Lake Baikal**

a I am a **Journalist** who writes about consumer issues from my base in New York.

b **Local markets** are great places to go shopping.

c You can buy everything under **the sun** there.

d If you see **an item** you like, don't look too interested.

e Let the vendor make the first offer on **the item**.

f **The vendor** may make a better offer.

g Buying online is... often **the cheapest way** of shopping.

h Judicious shoppers are **the garage sale elite**.

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

eBay
eBay is already (1) _____ most successful auction site on (2) _____ planet. Many of us go there to pick up (3) _____ cheap gifts and (4) _____ gadgets, and many people sell unusual items. But perhaps (5) _____ strangest item (6) _____ was put up by (6) _____ student from (7) _____ Nebraska who sold (8) _____ advertising space on his forehead. (9) _____ space was bought by (10) _____ company that makes (11) _____ medicine to help you sleep. (12) _____ student said, "Everywhere I went, (13) _____ people wanted to talk to me. I guess that's what (14) _____ advertiser wanted." Luckily (15) _____ tattoo wasn't permanent. It washed off after 30 days.

b Write a short description of something you bought recently, where you bought it and what you use it for.

Correct the sentences. Two sentences are already correct.

- 1 I think you've broken the ankle and you need to go to the hospital.
- 2 The night market is best market in the city.
- 3 I have a very strange ambition—I want to cross Sahara on a motorcycle.
- 4 Everyone knows that eating the fruit and vegetables is good for you.
- 5 I've bought a new camera. It's the one I found on that auction site on the Internet.
- 6 If you get room at the Bavaria Hotel, you'll have a fantastic view of Alps.
- 7 Fran's staying at home today because she has a cold.
- 8 I heard unusual story on the radio this morning.