1 Articles: *the* before general concepts

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1 a Many people are worried about the bad effects of mobiles on brain.
  b Many people are worried about the bad effects of mobiles on the brain.
2 a We need to look at factors such as the availability of health care.
  b We need to look at factors such as availability of health care.

We use *the* before nouns which describe a general type of thing rather than a specific example of that thing:
These are problems for students living away from ***the family****.*
We don't know the effects of such chemicals on ***the body****.*
The role of ***the student*** *at university level varies greatly from country to country.*
Most of our business is carried out over ***the telephone****.*

The is also used before abstract nouns which describe a situation, a quality, a process or a change. These words are often followed by *of something*:
There is a problem with ***the availability of*** *clean water in some villages.*
The distribution of *income is uneven in most countries.*
On the whole, ***the standard of*** *living is better in urban areas.*
Many residents complained about ***the frequency of*** *bus services.*
This advance was brought about by ***the development of*** *antibiotics.*
He made a number of recommendations for ***the improvement of*** *staff training.*
☆ We use *the development/improvement, etc. of something* to describe a general process of change, but *developments/improvements, etc. in something* to describe specific changes:
We try to keep up-to-date with new ***developments in*** *information technology.*

2 Correct the mistake below.

Doctors always stress ..... .

3 Are these sentences right or wrong? Correct those containing mistakes.

1 A diet high in cholesterol is bad for heart.
2 The introduction of computerised systems led to an increase in unemployment.
3 We all benefit from development of new technologies.
4 We were unhappy about quality of the food available.
5 Last year the airline saw a 20% improvement in delays.
6 There have been changes in the relationship between the teacher and the student.
7 Rates vary depending on standard of accommodation you choose.
8 She focused on the role of a family in a child's education.

LIVEWORKSHEETS