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An Unusual Building

Discover Grammar

A Listen and read. Why is this building unusual?  38



Hi! My name's Jinghua. I'm thirteen and I'm a student. My favorite subject is art and my favorite sport is tennis. I want to be an architect one day.

I live in Harbin, in China. It's cold here, but I love snow! Every winter, there's a festival in Zhaolin Park. It's an international ice and snow festival. This year, I went to the festival with my family.

They take blocks of ice from the River Songhua and put them in the park. Artists turn the blocks of ice into palaces and statues. Visitors come from all over the world to see them.

I loved the ice palaces. My dad's an electrician. He told me that they use millions of bulbs to light up the buildings. I'm going to draw a picture of an ice palace later.

When spring comes, they take down the sculptures so the park doesn't flood. The blocks of ice are put back in the river. It's awesome!

B Find these sentences in the text. Circle the correct words.

- 1 I'm **a** / **the** student.
- 2 Every winter, there's **the** / **a** festival in Zhaolin Park.
- 3 I'm going to paint **a** / **the** picture.

C Find these sentences in the text. Complete the sentences with *a* or *the*.

- 1 I went to _____ festival with my family.
- 2 They take blocks of ice from _____ River Songhua.

D Find these sentences in the text. Cross out any extra words.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 The my favorite subject is the art. | 3 My favorite sport is a tennis. |
| 2 I live in the Harbin, in the China. | 4 Artists turn the blocks of ice into the palaces and the statues. |

Learn Grammar

A Read and learn.

A, An, The, and No Article

Use *a* and *an*:

- before singular countable nouns, when something is mentioned for the first time.
*There's **a** festival.*

- for jobs.
*He's **an** electrician, I'm **a** student.*

- with things that aren't special.
*I'm going to draw a picture of **an** ice palace.* (This ice palace isn't special.)

Use *an* when a word begins with a vowel sound.

***an** international festival **an** architect*

Use *the*:

- with singular and plural nouns when both the speaker and listener know what we are talking about.

*I loved **the** ice palaces.* (the ones in the park)

- when something is mentioned for the second time. We already know this information.
*There's **a** festival.* (first mention)

*I went with my family to **the** festival.* (second mention)

Don't use an article:

- before most country names and towns.

I live in Harbin, in China. (BUT **the** United States)

- before plural nouns when talking about things in general.

I like animals.

Visitors come.

- with school subjects or sports.

My favorite subject is art.

I play tennis.



B Read and correct the sentences.

- 1 Jinghua is student.
- 2 She lives in the China.
- 3 She went to international festival this year.
- 4 A palaces were beautiful.
- 5 She drew the picture of an ice palace.

Jinghua is a student.

C Complete the sentences with *a* or *an*.

- 1 Mr Lee is _____ designer.
- 2 She's _____ artist.
- 3 He's _____ electrician.
- 4 You're _____ interpreter.
- 5 Mrs Yu is _____ tour guide.
- 6 He's _____ truck driver.

D Complete the sentences. Circle *the* or no article (-). Then listen and check. 39

I'm from ¹ **the** /  New Zealand. I heard about the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival from my friend Chi. This year, we decided to visit ² **the** / - festival. It was great, and ³ **the** / - snow palaces were amazing. I like ⁴ **the** / - light shows, and ⁵ **the** / - lights here were awesome. At night, ⁶ **the** / - buildings shone with different colors. I'm really glad we went, and I want to go back to ⁷ **the** / - Harbin next year!

E Read the dialogues. Circle *a* or *the*. Then listen and check. Act out with your partner. 40

Conversation 1

Let's go to Zhaolin Park. There's ¹ **a** / **the** festival today.

Really? Which one?

It's ² **an** / **the** annual ice and snow festival.

I'm not sure. I don't like ³ **a** / **the** snow.

It's awesome. You'll love it! We can see ⁴ **a** / **the** snow palaces made out of ice.

They are amazing!

Really? OK. I'll get my camera. Let's go to ⁵ **a** / **the** festival!

Conversation 2

Wow! What's this?

I think it's ⁶ **a** / **the** magical fairy palace.

It's really beautiful. Look, we can go inside.

Look up! Can you see ⁷ **a** / **the** lights?

They're really pretty. Let's go this way.

I think that's ⁸ **a** / **the** exit.

Wait a minute. I want to take ⁹ **a** / **the** photograph. OK. Say "Cheese!"

F Match the two parts of the sentences. Then write the sentences with *a* / *an*, *the* or no article.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1 Shi Qi Gao is _____ | a Ice and Snow Festival in Harbin every year. |
| 2 He studies _____ | b student. |
| 3 He likes to visit _____ | c snow palaces at the festival are incredible. |
| 4 He wants to be _____ | d art and technology in college. |
| 5 He thinks _____ | e architect when he finishes college. |

- 1 Shi Qi Gao is a student.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

G Complete the text with *a / an, the*, or no article.



Harbin is not the only place that holds ice and snow festivals. In Quebec, in ¹ _____ Canada, there is ² _____ Winter Carnival every year. There are shows, winter sports events, and snow and ice building competitions at ³ _____ Carnival, and there are parades through ⁴ _____ city every night. The opening ceremony takes place at ⁵ _____ Ice Palace. It's great fun, and everyone has ⁶ _____ amazing time!

Let's Talk!

H Work in small groups. Imagine that you are going to an ice and snow festival. Design an ice building poster together. Label the picture.

Display your design in the classroom. Tell the other groups about your design. Think about using *a, an, the*, or no article when you speak!

This is a snow school. It's got a snow playground and snow swings.

In the playground, there are ...

There are two classrooms. The classrooms have ...

This is our snow hotel. It's awesome! It's got an ice restaurant.

In the restaurant, you can see ...

There's a snow gym. It's got a mirror made of ice!