Test O: A/an and the

A

Complete the story about the theft of a river barge. Put in *a*, *an*, *one* or *the*.

This is (▶) a true story about (1) ..... man who chose (2) ..... worst possible time for his crime. It happened in London in (3) ..... summer of 1972. (4) ..... man stole a barge on (5) ..... River Thames (in case you don't know, (6) ..... barge is a river boat used for carrying goods). (7) ..... owner of (8) ..... barge soon discovered that it was missing and immediately informed (9) ..... police so that they could look for it. Normally (10) ..... river is quite (11) ..... busy place, and it would be difficult to find what you were looking for. On this day, however, there was (12)..... dock strike, and so there was only (13) ..... barge on (14) ..... river. (15) ..... thief was quickly found and arrested.

B

Decide which word or words are correct.

▶ I think that's an awful thing to say.
a) a awful b) an awful c) awful

1 Judy goes to ..... on the bus.
a) work b) a work c) the work

2 I don't know what to do. It's ..... problem.
a) quite difficult b) a quite difficult c) quite a difficult

3 ..... is my favourite sport.
a) Golf b) A golf c) The golf

4 ..... starts at nine o'clock.
a) School b) A school c) The school.

5 We had ..... time at the disco yesterday.
a) really nice b) a really nice c) really a nice

6 Nigel opened a drawer and took out ..... .
a) photos b) a photos c) some photos

7 Did you learn to play .....?
a) violin b) a violin c) the violin

8 We can finish the rest of the bread for ..... .
a) breakfast b) a breakfast c) the breakfast

9 While I was in hospital, they gave me ..... .
a) X-ray b) a X-ray c) an X-ray

10 I might listen to ..... .
a) radio b) radios c) the radio

11 We need to protect ..... from pollution.
a) environment b) some environment c) the environment

12 Why do they always play ..... music?
a) so terrible b) such terrible c) such a terrible

C

Read the story about a silly mistake and decide if a word needs to go in the space.
If a word is missing, write the word. If no word is missing, write ✗.

This is also (▶) a..... true story. It shows how (▶) ✗..... plans can sometimes go wrong and how (1) ..... people can make silly mistakes. This too happened quite (2) ..... long time ago – in (3) ..... 1979, in fact. The scene was (4) ..... old people's home in

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(5) ..... small town in (6) ..... north of England called (7) ..... Otley. The owners of the home wanted to put (8) ..... fence around it to make it more private. The work began soon after (9) ..... Christmas when (10) ..... workmen arrived in (11) ..... lorry with planks of wood which they put up around the building. 'It was (12) ..... very nice fence,' said (13) ..... of the old people. But there was (14) ..... problem. The workmen forgot to leave a gap for the lorry to drive out through. They had to come back the next day to knock down part of (15) ..... fence. '(16) ..... a silly mistake!' said another resident. 'It was (17) ..... funny we had to laugh. In fact it was (18) ..... most fun we've had for a long time.'

D

Some of these sentences are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. If the sentence is correct, put a tick (✓). If it is incorrect, cross the unnecessary word out of the sentence and write it in the space.

▶	The space capsule came down in the Pacific.	✓
▶	My new job starts in ~~the~~ April.	the
1	I was so tired I went to bed at nine.	.....
2	We had a very good lunch in the company canteen.	.....
3	The life just isn't fair sometimes.	.....
4	What the clever children you have!	.....
5	We went out and bought some pictures.	.....
6	Tessa was still working at the midnight.	.....
7	I drive past the hospital every morning.	.....
8	A one boy was much taller than all the others.	.....
9	It costs such a lot of money, you know.	.....
10	I'll meet you outside the National Gallery.	.....
11	Have you any idea who invented the fridge?	.....

E

Complete the conversation. Put in the words and decide if you need *a*, *an*, *some* or *the*.

Martin: I think we ought to book (▶) a holiday ..... (holiday). Where shall we go?
Anna: What about (▶) Scotland ..... (Scotland)?
I think Edinburgh is (1) ..... (beautiful city). I love going there.
Martin: (2) ..... (weather) might not be very good. We went there at (3) ..... (Easter), and it was freezing, remember.
Anna: We could have a walk along (4) ..... (Princes Street) and up to the castle. And I wanted to go to (5) ..... (Royal Scottish Museum), but we never found time.
Martin: Can't we go somewhere different?
Anna: We could spend some time in (6) ..... (Highlands), I suppose.
Martin: When I go on holiday, I want to do something more relaxing than climbing (7) ..... (mountains). And I find it pretty boring.
Anna: How can you say such (8) ..... (thing)?
Martin: Actually, I'd prefer somewhere warmer and by (9) ..... (sea). I think (10) ..... (Corfu) would be nice. We might get (11) ..... (sunshine) there. I just want to lie on a beach.
Anna: Martin, you know I'm not at all keen on (12) ..... (beach holidays).

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