

1 Look at these sentences and then complete rules 1–5 with *a/an*, *the* or no article.

- a I think family dinners are great.
- b Family dinners are **an** important moment for us.
- c **The** dinner I'm eating today isn't good.
- d **The** government talks a lot about family dinners.
- e I'm **a** computer technician.

- 1 We use *no article* when we talk about things in general.
- 2 We use to talk about a singular, countable person or thing for the first time, or to say that the person or thing is one of a number of things or people.
- 3 We use to talk about a specific person or thing or a person or thing mentioned before.
- 4 We use to talk about someone or something that is unique.
- 5 We use to say what somebody's profession is.



4 Read the text and choose the correct alternative.

(a) A/The report by the National Literacy Trust in the UK says that talking at home during meals can help (b) the/- children to be more confident and to communicate well. (c) A/The report says that 87% of (d) the/- young people sit down with their family at mealtimes. But 7.1% of those young people never or rarely talk to their family while they are eating. (e) A/An interesting thing the Literacy Trust discovered is that talking at mealtimes makes you more confident about speaking in (f) the/- class discussions or in front of your classmates. Most young people who talk at mealtimes think that (g) the/- good communication skills are important for finding (h) a/the good job. (i) A/The British Government is interested in this report because they want to improve children's speaking and listening skills. And (j) the/- families can help to do this just by talking at dinnertime.

5 Find and correct a mistake with articles in each sentence.

- 1 I'm a vegetarian. I never eat the meat.
- 2 My mum is the doctor in a big hospital.
- 3 Could you pass me potatoes?
- 4 I had a cat but a cat disappeared last month.
- 5 He's a student at University of Edinburgh.
- 6 She's got a brother and the sister.
- 7 I haven't got a watch – can you tell me a time?

6a Look at these questions. Add a, an, the or – if no article is necessary.

- 1 Do you think family dinners are important?
- 2 Are family dinners important part of life in your country?
- 3 Do you think children and parents talk a lot in your country?
- 4 Do you talk about important things when you have dinner?
- 5 Do you listen to music at dinnertime?
- 6 Do you think food you eat makes a difference to your school marks?
- 7 Do you like food at your school?



6b SPEAKING Interview your partner using the correct questions in 6a.

Do you think family dinners are important?

Yes, I do. You can talk and find out how everybody is.