GUIDED DISCOVERY HANDOUT: ARTICLES (A/AN, THE, ZERO ARTICLE)

(Based on Page 174 Reference Data)

SECTION A: THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE (A / AN)

We use a/an with singular countable nouns. Match the examples (1–4) with their correct uses (a–d).

Examples:

1. I need to buy a new car.
2. I think Tereshkova is a very interesting astronaut.
3. One evening, a man and a woman rang my doorbell.
4. As a child, she loved basketball.

Uses:

[ ] To say what someone is/does or that they are one of many.

[ ] To talk about a non-specific person or thing.

[ ] When we first mention something.

[ ] In the structure as + a(n) + noun.

Bonus Rule: We also use a/an to state jobs (He is a student) and frequency (twice a month).

SECTION B: THE DEFINITE ARTICLE (THE)

We use *the* with singular countable, plural countable, or uncountable nouns. Circle/choose the correct option in the rules below based on the examples.

1. The Prime Minister gave a speech in Paris today.

We use the to talk about a [specific / non-specific] person, people, or thing.

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2. One evening, a man and a woman rang my doorbell. The man introduced himself.

We use the when we refer [back to something already mentioned / to something for the first time].

3. That's the best film I've seen for a long time.

We use the before a [comparative / superlative] adjective.

4. Special Categories: All of the following categories require the article the. Write the before each example:

_____ moon / sun (only one of something)

_____ UK / USA (certain political or plural countries)

_____ navy / army (professional organizations)

_____ 1930s (time periods/decades)

_____ saxophone / piano (musical instruments)

_____ north of Germany (parts of a country/area)

_____ Nile / Pacific (oceans and rivers)

SECTION C: THE ZERO ARTICLE (NO ARTICLE)

We use no article in specific contexts. Complete the missing words in the rules using the Word Bank below.

Word Bank: Plural | Meals | Subjects | Familiar | Sports | General

1. With uncountable or _____ nouns to talk about people or things in a _____ way (I think nurses should be paid more).

2. Before certain _____ places (school, work, hospital, university, home).

3. With _____ of study (maths, science) and _____ (football, tennis).

4. With _____ (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and time expressions (last week, next year, this month).

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5. With most single country names (Mexico, France, Japan).

SECTION D: CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING (Error Correction)

Fix the article mistake in each sentence below:

1. [X] He wants to become the astronaut when he grows up.
   [V]

_____

2. [X] She goes to the work at 8:00 AM every morning.
   [V]

_____

3. [X] I love the dogs; I think they are best pets.
   [V]

_____

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TEACHER'S ANSWER KEY (FOR TEACHER USE OR SELF-CHECKING)

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SECTION A: INDEFINITE ARTICLE (A / AN)

* [2] To say what someone is/does or that they are one of many.
* [1] To talk about a non-specific person or thing.
* [3] When we first mention something.
* [4] In the structure as + a(n) + noun.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SECTION B: DEFINITE ARTICLE (THE)

1. specific
2. back to something already mentioned
3. superlative
4. Special Categories:
   * the moon / sun
   * the UK / USA
   * the navy / army
   * the 1930s
   * the saxophone / piano
   * the north of Germany
   * the Nile / Pacific

SECTION C: THE ZERO ARTICLE (NO ARTICLE)

1. With uncountable or plural nouns to talk about people or things in a general way.
2. Before certain familiar places.
3. With subjects of study and sports.
4. With meals.

SECTION D: ERROR CORRECTION

1. [V] He wants to become an astronaut when he grows up. (Job / one of many)
2. [V] She goes to work at 8:00 AM every morning. (Familiar place)
3. [V] I love dogs; I think they are the best pets. (General plural / superlative)

LIVEWORKSHEETS