ARTICLE EXPLANATION

ARTICLES: THE (DEFINITE); A, AN (INDEFINITE)

WHEN DO YOU USE AN ARTICLE WITH A NOUN IN ENGLISH?

I. YOU NEVER USE AN ARTICLE WITH A NOUN THAT IS ALREADY MODIFIED BY:

A. a demonstrative: this, that, these, those
   "These camels are tame."

B. a possessive: John's, my, your, its, etc.
   "My car runs well."

C. an interrogative: which? whose? what?
   "Whose garbage is that?"

D. a limiting adjective: all, another, any, both, each, either, enough,
   every, much, neither, no, several, some

II. YOU HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO USE AN ARTICLE WITH ANY NOUN
    NOT MODIFIED BY ONE OF THE FORMS GIVEN ABOVE. YOU DO THIS BY FINDING
    THE ANSWERS TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. (IF YOU ARE DEALING
    WITH A PROPER NOUN—THE NAME OF A PERSON, PLACE, ETC.—SEE THE SPECIAL
    HANDOUT.)

A. IS THE NOUN COUNTABLE OR NON-COUNTABLE?
   1. A noun is countable if you can put a plural ending on it, and count
      the items it refers to: one chair, two chairs; one child, two
      children; etc.
   2. A noun is non-countable if it lacks a plural form and cannot be
      counted:
      a. mass nouns: equipment, water, coffee, oxygen, furniture
      b. abstract nouns: information, honesty, justice
      c. names of areas of study: history, art, mathematics, English
      d. names of sports and recreational activities: baseball, bridge

   /If any of these nouns ever go into a plural form—"arts", "coffees" and so
   on—they have the special meaning of "types of" ("This school concentrates
   on the arts: painting, sculpture, and so on") or "servings of" ("Bring back
   three coffees."). The nouns have then turned into countable nouns and are
   treated as such. Some nouns can never become countable—see idiom
   handout./

B. IS THE NOUN SINGULAR OR PLURAL?

   If we have more than one item referred to by a countable noun, the noun
   must take a plural ending (usually -s or -es). It may also have a number
   before it: "three chickens."

   Remember that a non-countable noun that has a plural form has taken on a
   special meaning and has switched categories. Usually if we want to refer to
   several items belonging to the class of a non-countable noun we have to say
   something like "three pieces of equipment", "several items of
   information", "two pounds of coffee."
Name

ARTICLES:
COUNTABLE VS. NONCOUNTABLE NOUNS
"ANOTHER" VS. "MORE"

Another way to test your recognition of countable and noncountable nouns is by trying combinations with another and more.

Example: ‘I want another cookie.’ – countable-singular
‘I want more cookies.’ – countable-plural
‘I want more sympathy.’ – noncountable

DETERMINE WHETHER TO USE “ANOTHER” OR “MORE” IN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:

1. Did he give __________ assignment in that course after I left?
2. To finish the project, you will need __________ information.
3. The room looks empty; you should put __________ furniture into it.
4. Since I last saw you, I have discovered __________ evidence.
5. When I performed __________ experiments, I reached a different conclusion.
6. Can you find me __________ flower pot?
7. I also want to buy __________ potting soil.
8. I cannot fit __________ plant into this pot.
9. Buy __________ coffee and __________ box of cups; there will be forty people at the party.
10. I don’t want __________ advice; I need __________ money.
11. I cannot eat __________ ice cream; I have eaten a quart already.
12. Take me out to dinner: I do not want to see __________ movie!
13. He ate __________ hamburger; that made twelve in all!
14. The World Health Organization reported __________ case of typhus in Copenhagen.
15. There were reports of __________ cases in India.
16. There is __________ typhus in Bangladesh.
17. You cannot put __________ garbage into this can.
18. You must buy __________ cans.
19. I need __________ energy; give me __________ piece of chocolate!
20. She looks tired; she needs __________ sleep.
ARTICLES: DEFINITE VS. INDEFINITE, 2

Put 'the', 'a', or 'an' into each of the following sentences. (All the nouns are singular, countable nouns.) This time all the categories in Section II.C of the handout have been mingled.

1. Do you usually eat ______ egg for breakfast?
2. Did the travel agent make ______ reservation for you on ______ next plane to Chicago?
3. Have you studied ______ lesson for today?
4. Did you read ______ book that I recommended to you?
5. Tonight ______ planet Venus is very close to ______ moon.
6. There is ______ oscilloscope in ______ workshop.
7. To do that job, he will need ______ lathe.
8. I must have ______ extra key made for ______ front door.

/The next group of sentences go together./

9. This morning I received ______ long letter from my mother.
10. ______ letter brought me the news of my grandfather's remarriage.
11. ______ wedding was last Thursday.
12. After ______ ceremony, my parents gave ______ huge party.
13. ______ party went on until noon of ______ next day.
14. ______ bride danced all night.
15. She is ______ energetic woman, much younger than my grandfather.
16. ______ woman of seventy can naturally outdance ______ man of ninety.

/The next group of sentences go together./

17. Shall we eat lunch in ______ department office today?
18. There is ______ coffeemaker there, and ______ big table.
19. No, let's eat in ______ department's student lounge.
20. ______ couch in there is much more comfortable than ______ hard chairs in ______ office.
 Articles
Exercise 6

Fill the blanks with 'THE', 'A', 'AN', or 'SOME'. If an article is not needed, leave the space blank.

1. _______ first true electric battery, called _______ voltaic pile, was invented by Alessandro Volta in 1800. Until then, _______ Leyden Jar with its generator had been _______ only worthwhile source for _______ electricity. With _______ Volta's discovery, science of storing _______ electrical current took _______ great step forward. In _______ early days of electrical science, _______ primary batteries were _______ main source for _______ direct current. From 1800 to _______ early part of _______ 20th century, _______ wet batteries were used. _______ dry cell has replaced _______ wet type, which used _______ sal ammoniac as _______ electrolyte. _______ copper oxide caustic soda cell is still in _______ use for _______ heavy duty service.

2. Through _______ miraculous nature of _______ water, _______ reservoir of _______ water seeks its own level. _______ well newly dug is _______ empty chamber, _______ deep pit in which _______ walls change from _______ top soil to _______ clay as it deepens. _______ beads of water soon form on _______ sides, like _______ sparkling diamonds studding _______ walls. First _______ one drop of water, then another, until hundreds stand out all around. They begin to trickle slowly down to _______ spot where _______ droplet first started out. With _______ addition of other droplets, together they form _______ small stream. Soon there are _______ many little streams which slowly merge, decreasing in _______ number and increasing in size. These streams continue to grow and become _______ main channels of water supply, forming _______ deep pool of _______ clear, cool water at _______ bottom of _______ well.