

THE ARTICLES MANUAL

Programmed Article Exercises

Third Edition

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Introduction To The Third Edition

TO THE INSTRUCTOR: One of the most common faults that English as a Second Language students have is the misuse of articles. Even students who have good verb tense control and a reasonably large vocabulary continue to be bedevilled by the rules for article usage. The problem arises because there are so many seemingly arbitrary rules for article usage in English that the student has difficulty finding and applying a pattern. Most, although not all, of the rules concerning articles are included here, with follow-up exercises. Patterns do indeed exist, but the large number of them makes it difficult to remember the system easily or quickly.

For this reason, I suggest that this manual be used for extensive rather than intensive study. By that I mean it is far better to move slowly and to achieve mastery of a small portion of the article system before going on to another portion. The fastest a student might move through this manual is a chapter a day, and some of the earlier chapters might be gone through more slowly still.

Article errors make written work sound "odd", but they do not generally impede meaning. An ESL student would be better advised to have a strong grasp of verb tenses before devoting time to article study. Furthermore, the vocabulary in this manual assumes that the student has a high intermediate or advanced grasp of English.

In order to have any hope of beginning to understand article use, a good understanding of countable and uncountable nouns is necessary. For that reason, this manual opens with a study of countable and uncountable nouns before moving on to the use of indefinite and definite articles. The exercises get progressively more difficult as the manual goes on.

Finally, every ESL teacher has faced students who know grammar rules and can do exercises, but still produce paragraphs which are full of the same errors that the student and the teacher thought had been mastered. No group of exercises, including this one, can claim to be a "magic bullet" that will cure errors. This manual will give students a good grounding in the rules of article use, and prepare them to edit their own writing more successfully, but they must continue to write paragraphs extensively in order to master articles.

TO THE STUDENT: This manual has been designed to take you, step by step, through most of the rules for article usage. It takes a long time to master correct article usage, so you should be prepared to spend at least twelve (short) sessions with this work. In addition, try, in your reading, to investigate, from time to time, why certain articles are being used. Above all, have patience. Although the rules for article use are many, their number is limited. Also, expect to

continue making errors with articles in your writing, at least at first. The mistakes will be easier to recognize after you have completed this manual, and eventually they will become fewer and fewer.

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HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL: Chapter 1: The student reads the explanation and then asks the instructor for a test sheet. The student does exercises 1A through 1D, looking back to check the rules if he chooses, and having each test marked by the teacher. The student then takes test 1E and gives the test sheet to the instructor to be marked. If the student's score is lower than 90%, he should go on to exercise 1F. Record results on student record sheet.

CHAPTERS 2 - 5 : There are two exercises in each of these chapters. The student writes the "B" exercise only if she scores less than 90% on the "A" exercise. Record results on student record sheet

CHAPTERS 6 - 11: These are cumulative exercises using all the rules learned in chapters 1 - 5. There are only A exercises. Record results.

CHAPTER 13: Exercises A, B, and C are paragraph writing exercises. Record the number of article errors.

Chapter 1: Countable And Uncountable Nouns

Before you begin your study of articles, it is important to understand the difference between countable and uncountable nouns.

Countable nouns are nouns that can be counted.

e.g. I bought a sandwich.

I saw a man on the street.

Three kids took off as fast as they could.

A sandwich, a man, and three kids are all countable nouns. To test if a noun is countable, try putting numbers before it. Is it possible to say *one man, two men, three men*? If the answer is yes, then the noun is a countable noun.

Uncountable nouns are ones which can not be counted in grammar.

e.g. Rain fell heavily over the city last night.

I want to learn Spanish.

Smoke curled up from the camp fire.

Rain, Spanish, and smoke are all uncountable nouns. It is not normally possible to say *one smoke, two rains, four Spanishes, etc.*

Uncountable nouns are sometimes preceded by quantifiers.

e.g I drink milk every day.

I drank a glass of milk this morning.

Terry's fond of beer.

I bought him a case of beer for his birthday.

Glass and case are countable, but *milk and beer* are not. One must therefore be careful not to confuse the quantifier with the uncountable noun or an article error is likely. *A case, a box, two bottles, seven cups, etc.* are all quantifiers that are countable.

Before you go on to the exercises on the following pages, make sure you have understood the difference between countable and uncountable nouns. Read the explanations again if you are not sure. Look around the room. Make a list of items you see and decide which ones are countable.

Here are three groups of uncountable nouns:

- a) Liquids: water, wine, blood, milk, juice, etc.
- b) Gases: smoke, nitrogen, fog, air, helium, etc.
- c) Very small things that are part of a larger whole : hair, flour, sugar, rice, dust, etc.

Exercise 1A

Write "C" for countable beside each of the appropriate words listed below. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to check the answers for you.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1) _____ bottle | 2) _____ cloud |
| 3) _____ air | 4) _____ banana |
| 5) _____ salt | 6) _____ oxygen |
| 7) _____ wheat | 8) _____ shoe |
| 9) _____ tooth | 10) _____ orange juice |
| 11) _____ pill | 12) _____ smog |
| 13) _____ powder | 14) _____ disk |
| 15) _____ steam | 16) _____ drill |
| 17) _____ coffee | 18) _____ tea |
| 19) _____ mist | 20) _____ desk |
| 21) _____ picture | 22) _____ cup of tea |
| 23) _____ sugar | 24) _____ rice |
| 25) _____ lamp | |

Here are three more groups of uncountable nouns:

- d) Solids: bread, wood, cloth, glass, etc.
- e) Abstractions: love, intelligence, beauty, help, work, etc.
- f) Subjects of study: History, Economics, English, Math, etc.

Exercise 1B

Write "C" for countable beside each of the appropriate words listed below. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to check the answers for you.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) _____ concrete | 2) _____ binder |
| 3) _____ bag | 4) _____ psychology |
| 5) _____ geography | 6) _____ wallet |
| 7) _____ drawer | 8) _____ hunger |
| 9) _____ bulb | 10) _____ calendar |
| 11) _____ fear | 12) _____ anger |
| 13) _____ frame | 14) _____ boat |
| 15) _____ physical education | 16) _____ pain |
| 17) _____ aluminium | 18) _____ bread |
| 19) _____ plaster | 20) _____ pin |
| 21) _____ religion | 22) _____ thoughtfulness |
| 23) _____ stupidity | 24) _____ humour |
| 25) _____ key | |

Here are four more groups of uncountable nouns:

- g) Languages: Parsi, Italian, Polish, Vietnamese, etc.
- h) Gerunds (words ending in *-ing* that function as nouns): sleeping, reading, running, eating, etc.
- i) Groups of similar things: mail (which consists of letters and parcels), jewelry (which consists of rings, chains, watches) garbage (which consists of cans, papers, leftover food), etc.
- j) The names of sports and games: baseball, tennis, poker, chess, etc.

Exercise 1C

Write "C" for countable beside each of the appropriate words listed below. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to check the answers for you.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) _____ English | 2) _____ island |
| 3) _____ letter | 4) _____ mail |
| 5) _____ luggage | 6) _____ suitcase |
| 7) _____ eating | 8) _____ soccer |
| 9) _____ jewelry | 10) _____ fishing |
| 11) _____ file | 12) _____ filing |
| 13) _____ table tennis | 14) _____ table |
| 15) _____ Urdu | 16) _____ computer |
| 17) _____ sail | 18) _____ sailing |
| 19) _____ nail | 20) _____ roof |
| 21) _____ hockey | 22) _____ stick |
| 23) _____ leaf | 24) _____ ring |
| 25) _____ parcel | |

The ten categories above cover most, although not all, of the groups of uncountable nouns. Once again, these ten groups are the following:

- a) Liquids
- b) Gases
- c) Very small things that are part of a larger whole
- d) Solids
- e) Abstractions
- f) Subjects of study
- g) Languages
- h) Gerunds
- i) Groups of similar things
- j) The names of sports and games

Exercise 1D

This exercise is a little different from the ones above. Using the list of groups of uncountable nouns above, write the letter of the appropriate group of uncountable nouns beside each of the words listed below. Use a test sheet and ask an instructor to mark your test for you. **Remember, all of the words listed below will be uncountable.**

e.g. ___b___ air (Mark "b" because "air" refers to a gas.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) ___ luck | 2) ___ wine |
| 3) ___ Canadian History | 4) ___ Communications 200 |
| 5) ___ furniture | 6) ___ salt |
| 7) ___ hunting | 8) ___ bread |
| 9) ___ fruit | 10) ___ pingpong |
| 11) ___ arrogance | 12) ___ friendship |
| 13) ___ makeup | 14) ___ food |
| 15) ___ rice | 16) ___ soup |
| 17) ___ stew | 18) ___ dancing |
| 19) ___ knowledge | 20) ___ ice |
| 21) ___ advice | 22) ___ wood |
| 23) ___ corn | 24) ___ polyester |
| 25) ___ sleep | |

Exercise 1E

Now we return to telling the difference between countable and uncountable nouns. The list below contains a mix of countable and uncountable words. Write "C" for countable beside each of the appropriate words listed below. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to check the answers for you.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) ___ girl | 2) ___ desk |
| 3) ___ milk | 4) ___ intelligence |
| 5) ___ grass | 6) ___ paper clip |
| 7) ___ juice | 8) ___ glass of juice |
| 9) ___ margarine | 10) ___ biology |

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 11) ___ silver | 12) ___ tooth |
| 13) ___ black board | 14) ___ money |
| 15) ___ key | 16) ___ car |
| 17) ___ swimming | 18) ___ humidity |
| 19) ___ heart | 20) ___ pill |
| 21) ___ oil | 22) ___ meat |
| 23) ___ sand | 24) ___ letter |
| 25) ___ mail | |

Exercise 1F. Do this exercise only if you scored less than 90% on the exercise above. Write "C" beside each of the countable nouns below. Use a test sheet and ask an instructor to mark your results.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1)___ coffee | 2)___ sheet |
| 3)___ window | 4)___ copper |
| 5)___ machine | 6)___ machinery |
| 7)___ English | 8)___ steam |
| 9)___ disk | 10)___ handle |
| 11)___ picture | 12)___ darkness |
| 13)___ bed | 14)___ capsule |
| 15)___ swimming | 16)___ swimming pool |
| 17)___ adhesive tape | 18)___ cereal |
| 19)___ branch | 20)___ nail |
| 21)___ butter | 22)___ beef |
| 23)___ sandwich | 24)___ heat |
| 25)___ gun | |

If you scored less than 90%, review the rules above, and begin exercise 1A again.

Chapter 2: The Indefinite Articles "A" And "An"

A singular countable noun must take an article or some other determiner such as "my", "this", etc

If you are unsure about the difference between countable and uncountable nouns, look back to Chapter One for an explanation. Although the article used could be "a", "an" or "the", this chapter is concerned only with the use of "a" and "an".

e.g. I saw a man standing at my door when I came home.

Do you have a match?

An ant is smaller than an elephant.

Uncountable nouns do not take "a" or "an".

"A" and "an" can sometimes have a meaning similar to "one". However, the words are not exactly the same and should not be used interchangeably.

e.g. Rum is stronger than beer

Heavy luggage is a problem when one travels.

Peace has broken out.

"An" is used before a singular countable noun (or its adjective) that begins with a vowel sound. All other singular countable nouns take "a".

With few exceptions, this rule is easy to apply. We say "a pen", "a bull", "a cheque", "a zoo", etc. We say "an antelope", "an egg", "an intelligent man", "an opening", "an umbrella".

The exceptions arise when we have words that begin with vowels which do not sound like vowels or with consonants that are silent. Look at the following pairs of words:

an umbrella.....a university

an hour.....a house

"University" is preceded by "a" because the vowel sounds like the consonant at the beginning of the word "yellow". "Hour" is preceded by "an" because because the initial "h" is silent.

NOTE: In everyday speech, we sometimes use "a" before words like "coffee", "beer", etc. You will hear people order food in the following way: "Please give me a Coke." Although this request seems to contradict our rule of using "a" and "an" only for singular, countable nouns, it is really a short form. "A Coke" refers either to "a can of Coke" or "a glass of Coke". While this use of "a" is standard in everyday speech, it is not appropriate in written work.

Exercise 2A.

Write "a" or "an" if the blank comes before a singular countable noun (or its adjectives). Leave the blank empty if the noun is uncountable. Use a test sheet, and ask an instructor to mark your exercise when you have finished it.

eg. a computer.
an inferior product
 air

- A) I have (1)_____article here about the Haida of British Columbia.
- B) Tom reads for (2)_____ hour (3)_____ day.
- C) The summer months are perfect for (4)_____swimming, (5)_____fishing, and (6)_____playing tennis.
- D) (7)_____ union is (8)_____ group of workers.
- E) Ted had (9)_____ operation to remove (10)_____ stone from his gall bladder. He keeps the stone as (11)_____ souvenir in (12)_____ glass on his desk.
- F) My wife asked me to pick up (13)_____ bread, (14)_____ milk, and (15)_____ box of detergent.
- G) (16)_____ detergent is one of the main polluters of our lakes and rivers.
- H) My friend Marek danced with (17)_____ girl who danced with (18)_____ man who danced with the Prime Minister.
- I) Let's drop by the colonel's and pick up (19)_____ bucket of (20)_____ chicken.
- J) Fill up the car with (21)_____ gas, and don't forget to buy (22)_____ litre of oil.
- K) (23)_____ cheese is not one of my favourite foods. I like (24)_____ bacon, but I can't stand (25)_____ ham.

Exercise 2B. Do this exercise only if you scored less than 90% on exercise 2A. Study again the rules for use of "a" and "an" at the beginning of this chapter. When you are ready to go on, use a test sheet and ask an instructor to mark the exercise after you have finished.

- A) (1)_____ bridge is (2)_____ card game that is played in many countries.
- B) Would you like (3)_____ rice or (4)_____ baked potato with your meal?
- C) I'm afraid I haven't got (5) _____ time for (6) _____ game of checkers.

D) (7) _____ transmission fluid was leaking from your car.

E) (8) _____ time waits for no man.

F) I went (9) _____ fishing with my friends, but I didn't catch (10) _____ fish. All I caught was (11) _____ cold. I still have (12) _____ runny nose.

G) (13) _____ animate object is (14) _____ living thing.

H) (15) _____ ambulance picked up (16) _____ woman who had been hurt in an accident.

I) (17) _____ air, (18) _____ food, (19) _____ clothing, and (20) _____ water are some of our basic needs.

J) (21) _____ angry shouting came from the room where the boss had taken his employee. It sounded as if they were having (22) _____ argument.

K) (23) _____ cup of (24) _____ coffee would do me good. Could you also put in half (25) _____ tea spoon of sugar?

Chapter 3: "A" Versus "The"

"The" is called the definite article. It is used with singular and plural countable or uncountable nouns. It is similar to "this" or "that" in that it refers to something specific. Nouns can be specific in different ways.

a) **If only one such item exists, we use "the"**

e.g.: the sun, the moon, the Bible, the Koran, the earth. "The earth is in danger of being destroyed by pollution." (We say the Earth because there is only one Earth.) "Xygor is a planet that has three moons." (We do not say the moons because they are more than one). "The moon goes through different phases throughout the month." (We say the moon because we are referring to the one that circles the earth and there is only one.)

b) **In second and all subsequent mention of a noun, we use "the".**

e.g. "I saw a man on the street yesterday. The man was hopping like a rabbit. A policeman stopped the man, but he refused to speak. The policeman was not amused." (Notice that "man" and "policeman" take "a" on first mention, and "the" on subsequent mentions.)

Note the following example with uncountable nouns and plurals: "I ordered wine with our meal, but when the waiter brought it, I found the wine was bad. It had changed to vinegar. We asked for spoons because there were none on the table and we couldn't eat our soup without them. The spoons the waiter brought were dirty and we had to clean them with our napkins. We'll never go back to that restaurant again." (Notice that "wine", an uncountable noun, does not take any article on first mention, but it takes "the" on the next mention. The same holds true for "spoons", a plural countable noun.)

c) **When the object referred to is obvious, or known to both the speaker and the listener, we use "the"**

e.g. "The postman is late" (We use "the" because it is obvious that our postman is being referred to.) "Your keys are on the fridge." (It is obvious that I mean a fridge that the speaker knows about.) "We're going to the cottage this weekend."

d) **Do not use any article when any of these adjectives precede a noun: some, any, a few, few, several, many.**

e.g. Buy me some wine and buy me a few cigars. Do you have any money? Few people can keep their New Year's resolutions.

Remember:		
<u>A singular countable noun</u>	always takes "the" or	"a"(or other
determiner)		
<u>A plural countable noun</u>	takes "the" or nothing	
<u>An uncountable noun</u>	takes "the" or nothing	

Exercise 3A. Use "the", "a", "an" or nothing in the blanks below. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to mark your answers for you.

A) I saw (1) ____ accident at Bloor and Yonge last night. (2) ____ truck drove through a red light and slammed into (3) ____ rear bumper of (4) ____ bus that was carrying several (5) _____ passengers. (6) ____ truck was a wreck, but (7) ____ bus didn't have much damage at all.

B) I'm hungry. Why don't we stop in at (8) ____ restaurant?

C) (9) ____ restaurant I ate at last night was terrible.

D) "Do you have any pets?"

"Not any more. I had (10) ____ canary and (11) ____ cat. but (12) ____ cat ate ____ (13) canary and (14) _____ dog chased (15) ____ cat away."

E) "Is there any soup left?"

"Yes. It's in a bowl in (16) ____ microwave.

F) "What's your favourite flavour?"

"(17) ____ lime."

"There's (18) ____ lime in (19) _____ fridge. You can use (20) ____ lime to make yourself a drink."

G) I like (21) ____ bread, but (22) ____ bread I ate last night was moldy and it made me sick, even though I only ate (23) ____ slice. This morning, I threw (24) ____ bread into the garbage.

H) I was driving to work when (25) _____ car broke down and I had to phone for a tow-truck.

Exercise 3B. Do this exercise only if you scored less than 90% on the exercise above. First review the rules at the beginning of this chapter. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to mark your test when you have finished.

A) (1) _____ helium is used to make (2) _____ balloons fly, but (3) _____ helium I bought must have been bad because my balloons refused to rise.

B) A very unusual and silly thing happened at the office yesterday. (4) _____ apple rolled down (5) _____ corridor outside my office door. When I went out to investigate, I found that (6) _____ colleague was bowling using an apple for a ball and (7) _____ bunch of asparagus for the pins. Needless to say, I turned down his offer to buy (8) _____ asparagus after he had finished his game.

C) When I woke up last night, I saw (9) _____ burglar standing by (10) _____ dresser in my room. (11) _____ burglar took out (12) _____ flashlight to scan the dresser for money. Unluckily for him, (13) _____ flashlight bulb burnt out. When I turned on (14) _____ bedside lamp, I saw my brother with his hands on my last ten dollar bill.

D) (15) _____ Bible remains one of the best-selling books in the world.

E) (16) _____ eyes of a cat are well-suited to hunting at night.

F) (17) _____ butter is made from cream, and (18) _____ margarine is made from oil.

G) (19) _____ butter which I bought in Quebec is somehow tastier than that made in Ontario.

H) (20) _____ children must attend school, but (21) _____ children down the street never seem to go.

I) (22) _____ nervousness has often kept me awake at night, especially (23) _____ nervousness I feel before (24) _____ test.

J) (25) _____ accident at mid-term can put you far behind in your school work.

CHAPTER 4: THE Vs. No The

There are many rules to learn in this category, and they have been divided between the next two chapters. There is really no general rule of thumb that can be given. You simply have to memorize the rules and practice them with the exercises provided.

A) A subject, or field of study, usually takes no "the".

e.g., English, Psychology, Grammar, English History, American Literature, etc.

B) The following words take no "the" unless they are made specific:

bed, breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper, church, class, school, jail, town, vacation, work.

Note the difference between these pairs of sentences:

I went to bed late last night

Don't put books on the bed.

I go to school at nine.

The school is on the top of the hill

C i) Titles take articles unless they are followed by a name.

I saw the Prime Minister on tv last night.

Prime Minister Chrétien was late for the meeting.

The chairperson spoke first.

Chairperson Jones asked for someone to take minutes.

but

C ii) Titles used as forms of address do not take articles.

How are you, Doctor?

May I help you, Professor?

D i) Most countries, provinces, states and continents take no "the"

France, Germany, Canada, Russia.

D. ii) However, official names of countries do take articles.

The Republic of France, the United States, The German Democratic Republic.

D iii) Plural names of countries also take "the":

The Netherlands, the Philippines.

E) Use no "the" with individual mountains, individual islands, individual lakes, falls, beaches, cities, streets, avenues, or colleges. The same rule applies to universities where the word "university" is preceded by some other word.

e.g. Mount Everest, Mount Kilimanjaro

Sardinia, Anticosti

Lake Ontario, Lake Simcoe

Niagara Falls, High Falls

Wasaga Beach, Daytona Beach

Toronto, Winnipeg

Yonge Street, Bloor Street

Richmond Avenue, Langside Avenue

Humber College, Seneca College

Trent University, Lakehead University

But

F) Use "the" with named mountain ranges, peninsulas, groups of islands, deserts, oceans, seas, gulfs, rivers, canals, groups of lakes, tunnels, gardens, zoos, college and university names followed by "of", and buildings (except those with the word "hall").

e.g. The Rocky Mountains, The Alps

The Iberian Peninsula, The Italian Peninsula

The Antilles, The Bahamas

The Mojave desert, The Kalahari desert

The Atlantic Ocean, The Pacific Ocean

The Carribean Sea, The Mediterranean Sea

The Gulf of Mexico,

The Humber River, The Don River

The Trent Canal, The Suez Canal
The Great Lakes, The Finger Lakes
The Holland Tunnel, The Orly Tunnel
The Royal Botanical Gardens,
The Toronto Zoo, The Berlin Zoo
The University of Toronto, The University of Guelph
The Eaton Centre, The Maclean Hunter Building
City Hall (no "the")

G) Use "the" with "of" phrases:

The man of the hour, the rest of the kids, etc.

Exercise 4 A Fill in the blanks with "the" or leave them blank if no article is necessary. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to mark it after you have finished.

A) In my travels around (1) ____ world, I have been to some lovely places, including (2) ____ Wasaga Beach on (3) ____ Georgian Bay. It is on (4) ____ Lake Huron , which is part of (5) ____ Great Lakes. Although (6) ____ beach is nice enough, there are too many people to make it pleasant in high season. I enjoy fishing on (7) ____ Nottawasaga River nearby.

B) (8) ____ Panama Canal joins (9) ____ Atlantic Ocean to (10) ____ Pacific Ocean and separates (11) ____ North America from (12) ____ South America. The canal also bisects (13) ____ Panama itself.

C) (14) ____ Mount McKinley is found in (15) ____ Rocky Mountains, but (16) ____ Blue Mountains are not all that far from Toronto.

D) I went to (17) ____ London to visit (18) ____ Queen, but as (19) ____ Queen Elizabeth was not in, I had to settle for seeing (20) ____ Prime Minister.

E) (21) ____ dinner will be ready in about forty-five minutes. I know you're tired because you had a hard day, so if you want to go to (22) ____ bed for half an hour first, go ahead. However, remember not to use (23) ____ bed in our room because I want to change the sheets before the children come back from (24) ____ school. After dinner, I'm going to have to help them with their homework because they are both having trouble in (25) ____ mathematics.

Exercise 4B. Do this exercise only if you scored lower than 90% on exercise 4A. Use a test sheet and ask your teacher to mark your work when you have finished. Use "the" in the blanks below or leave them empty.

A) I like Sundays a lot because they are so relaxing. After (1) ____ breakfast, we go to (2) ____ church for the late service. You would like it because (3) ____ church is on a hill overlooking a valley. The best part of the day, of course, is knowing that one doesn't have to go to (4) ____ work.

B) (5) ____ New York is a nice place to visit, and I include (6) ____ Forty-Second Street as one of the places where I always go for a walk. (7) ____ Central Park is another. Very often, I'll visit (8) ____ Algonquin Hotel for a drink at the end of the day.

C) (9) ____ Sahara Desert in (10) ____ Africa is said to be growing larger every year.

D) (11) ____ CN Tower is a tourist sight in Toronto, as is (12) ____ High Park.

E) (13) ____ Greenland is much larger than (14) ____ Iceland.

F) For a child, (15) ____ fun can be a day at (16) ____ Toronto Zoo or a trip to (17) ____ Niagara Falls.

G) (18) ____ King George VI of England died in 1952.

H) (19) ____ University of Toronto has a lot of students from (20) ____ Asia, but (21) ____ York University has many from (22) ____ Europe. (23) ____ Humber College gets students from all over the world.

I) Choosing to study (24) ____ English is like choosing to go to (25) ____ jail.

Chapter 5: "The" Vs. No "The" Continued

Many more rules for use of "the". These are lettered to follow the rules in the previous chapter.

H i) **Business names with a possessive form do not take "the".**

e.g. Eaton's

H ii) **Business names that include the word "company" take "the".**

e.g. The Ford Motor Company

H iii) **Business names with no "company" in the title do not take "the".**

e.g. Ford

Canada Packers

I) **Most magazine names do not take "the"**

.

e.g. Macleans

Saturday Night

Field and Stream

(Exceptions such as The New Yorker and The Atlantic do exist.)

J) **Newspaper names usually take "the".**

e.g. The Toronto Star

The Globe and Mail

(One exception is USA Today)

K) **Most holidays do not take "the".**

e.g. Christmas,

Labour Day

The Civic Holiday (exception)

L) north, south, east, west, etc. do not take "the" when they are used as adverbs, but they do take "the" when they are used in prepositional phrases.

e.g. We walked north.

The old man pointed to the east.

M) Ordinal numbers, except for a few used in certain expressions, take "the".

e.g. My grandfather fought in the First World War.

This is the third time I've called you!

I was unsure at first. (exception - no "the".)

N) Do not use "the" if the number comes after the noun.

e.g. My grandfather fought in World War One.

O) Superlatives usually take "the".

e.g. This is the biggest car I've ever seen.

When you're offered a piece of pie, take the smallest one.

P) Most diseases except "flu", do not take "the". (Be careful though, because headache, stomach ache, sore throat, sore arm, and cold all take "a".)

e.g. Malaria is endemic in the tropics.

He has lung cancer.

I've got a bad case of the flu.

I've got a sore back.

She caught the flu. (in England, no "the" with flu)

Q) Do not use "the" with television unless you mean a specific one.

e.g. I saw a good show on television last night.

"Turn down the television!"

R) Use "the" with radio or telephone.

e.g. Can someone answer the telephone?

I heard the news on the radio.

(But note exceptions: "Radio is a good media for people who like to listen." "I need to install a phone.")

S) "Home", unless it is made more specific, does not take "the".

e.g. He went home after school.

Uncle George lives in the home for the aged at Bloor and Keele.

Exercise 5A. Use "the" or nothing in the blanks below. Use a test sheet and ask an instructor to mark it for you when you have finished.

A) "What are you going to do on (1) ____ Labour Day?"

"I think I'll go (2) ____ north to my parents' cottage. I want to have a good time because this is going to be (3) ____ last holiday I have before I start my new job."

"Aren't you coming back to (4) ____ Humber College in the fall?"

"No. I'm going to take a year off and then enroll at (5) ____ York University."

"If I were you, I'd go to (6) ____ University of Toronto instead."

B) (7) ____ Toronto Star is a pretty good newspaper, and, when I have time, I also read (8) ____ Macleans.

C) (9) ____ most expensive holiday I ever had was in France. (10) ____ last time I was there was in 1993.

D) When I graduate, I hope to get a job with (11) ____ IBM. They have (12) ____ best working conditions I know of.

E) Whenever I feel tired, all I want to do is go (13) ____ home and turn on (14) ____ television or listen to (15) ____ radio. If anybody calls me, I don't even bother to answer (16) ____ phone.

F) Please turn to (17) ____ chapter two, and take a look at (18) ____ second column on page twenty-six. Kindly do (19) ____ first six questions. If you don't have time to finish them in class, you can take the work (20) ____ home.

G) (21) ____ Cutright Company trains butchers to work at (22) ____ Homer's delicatessen.

H) (23) ____ Christmas is one of my favourite holidays. It falls on (24) ____ twenty-fifth of December.

I) I won't give you a ticket this time, but (25) ____ next time I catch you speeding, I'll charge you on the spot.

Exercise 5B. **Do this exercise only if you scored less than 90% on the exercise above.** Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to mark it for you.

A) (1) ____ last time I was in Belgium was during (2) ____ Second World War. I suffered badly from (3) ____ athlete's foot during the whole campaign, and it was one of (4) ____ most miserable times of my life. It was (5) ____ first time

THE ARTICLES MANUAL

Programmed Article Exercises – Third Edition

away from (6) ____ home for me, and I missed it most at (7) ____ Easter. The whole family got together to sing Icelandic folk songs at (8) ____ home my grandfather had built in Saskatoon.

B) This is (9) ____ first time and it is also (10) ____ last time I'm going to say this to you.

C) Answer (11) ____ telephone, turn down (12) ____ radio, and turn off (13) ____ television!

D) I get a lot of (14) ____ bad headaches every time I look at (15) ____ chapter five of The Articles Manual.

E) Tom drove towards (16) ____ east but changed his mind and headed (17) ____ north.

F) (18) ____ Simpson's was sold to (19) ____ Hudson's Bay Company some years ago and now I understand that (20) ____ Stelco is interested in buying out the department store chain.

G) (21) ____ Gilbey's is one of (22) ____ finest gins in Canada.

H) It usually rains on (23) ____ Halloween, which falls on (24) ____ thirty-first day of October. (25) ____ Globe and Mail printed some statistics on this fact.

Chapter 6: Cumulative Exercise 6

The next five exercises incorporate many of the rules for article use you have learned to this point. Do each one. Use "the", "a," "an", or nothing in the blanks below. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to mark your test when you have finished.

A) "Did you have a good time at (1) ____ City Hall?"

"We didn't go there. We went to (2) ____ Eaton Centre instead."

B) "Does Tom own (3) ____ car?"

"He did, but he sold it last week. (4) ____ old gas guzzler was costing him too much money to run."

C) (5) ____ copper is a metal used in (6) ____ plumbing. (7) ____ plumbing in my house is leaking because all of the pipes froze.

D) I was sitting in (8) ____ canoe when (9) ____ fish jumped out of (10) ____ water. (11) ____ fish jumped right into (12) ____ canoe. I was only sorry that I didn't have (13) ____ frying pan with me.

E) (14) ____ money is (15) ____ important commodity in (16) ____ modern life.

F) Did you feed (17) ____ cat before you left home?

G) Where did you put (18) ____ wine? Did you leave it on (19) ____ kitchen table or did you put it in (20) ____ fridge?

H) (21) ____ air is necessary for human beings, but (22) ____ air in Toronto is sometimes unfit to breathe.

I) I went out to buy (23) ____ furniture yesterday. I needed (24) ____ couch. (25) ____ couch I bought set me back eight hundred dollars.

Chapter 7: Cumulative Exercise 7

Use "the", "a", "an", or nothing in the blanks below. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to mark your test when you have finished.

- A) Did you find (1) ____ documents you needed?
- B) (2) ____ student who gave that presentation has (3) ____ sharp mind.
- C) Most Europeans think of (4) ____ America as including both (5) ____ Canada and (6) ____ United States.
- D) I met (7) ____ old friend on the way to (8) ____ work last night.
- E) Do men worry about (9) ____ life as much as (10) ____ women do?
- F) (11) ____ Lake Ontario, which is one of (12) ____ Great Lakes, is drained by (13) ____ St. Lawrence River. It flows into (14) ____ Atlantic Ocean.
- G) I want to learn (15) ____ Russian before I go to (16) ____ Commonwealth of Independent States.
- H) Ted is (17) ____ upholsterer. He buys (18) ____ cloth from one of (19) ____ wholesalers on Spadina.
- I) (20) ____ Park Plaza Hotel is (21) ____ landmark in Toronto.
- J) (22) ____ talent is not rare, but (23) ____ ability to put it to good use is.
- K) (24) ____ Stale Cracker Company of Weston, Ontario, was bought out by (25) ____ Nadisco.

Chapter 8: Cumulative Exercise 8

Use "the", "a", "an", or nothing in the blanks below. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to mark your test when you have finished.

- A) (1) ____ Kingston Whig Standard is (2) ____ small, but respected newspaper.
- B) (3) ____ baseball is not popular in (4) ____ Europe, but (5) ____ soccer is.
- C) I've been single too long. It's time for me to have (6) ____ wife, (7) ____ home and (8) ____ children.
- D) Ottawa is (9) ____ capital of Canada.
- E) I got (10) ____ flu somewhere, and now I have (11) ____ sore throat as well.
- F) I've always wanted to write (12) ____ book. (13) ____ book would be about (14) ____ student who gave up studying articles.
- G) (15) ____ biggest sandwich ever made was (16) ____ eight metre monstrosity.
- H) (17) ____ Scandinavian Peninsula includes (18) ____ following countries.
- I) (19) ____ High Park is in (20) ____ western part of Toronto.
- J) (21) ____ compass in my hand said (22) ____ north was on my left.
- K) (23) ____ Central Library is on (24) ____ west side of Yonge Street just North of (25) ____ Bloor Street.

Chapter 9: Cumulative Exercise 9

Use the, a, an, or nothing in the blanks below. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to mark your test when you have finished.

A) (1) ____ sun is far from (2) ____ earth.

B) (3) ____ language is used by all peoples. (4) ____ Italian is (5) ____ language of Italy.

C) (6) ____ cheese is made from milk, and (7) ____ best cheese in (8) ____ world comes from France. (9) ____ cheese in this sandwich, however, comes from Rexdale and is one of (10) ____ least tasty cheeses I have ever had.

D) (11) ____ air is composed mostly of nitrogen and oxygen, but (12) ____ air in this room is composed mostly of cigarette smoke.

E) (13) ____ hair is found on most mammals.

F) (14) ____ love is more important than (15) ____ money to many people.

G) (16) ____ love of a dog for its master is unending.

H) (17) ____ Atlantic Ocean is between (18) ____ North America and (19) ____ Europe.

I) (20) ____ Europe of 1900 was very different from (21) ____ Europe of today.

J) (22) ____ geese are birds. (23) ____ chicken is smaller than (24) ____ goose.

K) Is journalism (25) ____ honourable profession?

Chapter 10: Cumulative Exercise 10

Use "the", "a" "an", or nothing in the blanks below. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to mark your test when you have finished.

A) (1) ____ house next to mine is for sale. It's really (2) ____ nice house, with lots of (3) ____ windows. (4) ____ front windows overlook the street and (5) ____ rear windows overlook a ravine. It has (6) ____ small rooms, but there are a lot of them, and there is (7) ____ fireplace on each floor. I really don't know (8) ____ price of this house, but I'm sure it's not too high.

B) Muhammed Ali was (9) ____ famous boxer in the sixties and seventies.

C) I live on (10) ____ third floor of (11) ____ old apartment building that overlooks (12) ____ High Park. (13) ____ park is (14) ____ most pleasant place I know to go for a walk.

D) An unusual story: It was (15) ____ dark and stormy night. (16) ____ wind was blowing from the west and all (17) ____ trees in (18) ____ yard were swaying back and forth. Suddenly, there was (19) ____ knock at the door. When I opened it, I saw (20) ____ man with (21) ____ unhappy face. (22) ____ man was holding (23) ____ bottle of insect repellent in his hand. "Would you like to buy some?" he asked. I told him I didn't need (24) ____ insect repellent just then but asked if he also sold (25) ____ garlic.

Chapter 11: Cumulative Exercise 11

You may find this exercise a bit more difficult than the others. It was taken from a Canadian novel published in Canada. Use "the", "a", "an", or nothing in the blanks below. Use a test sheet and ask your instructor to mark your test when you have finished.

My (1) ___ apartment in Toronto was located over (2) ___ Blue Sky Restaurant near (3) ___ Queen and Parliament streets - (4) ___ section that, in spite of its regal street names, had lost much of its (5) ___ stateliness. But (6) ___ apartment was just what I needed: it had (7) ___ bedroom with (8) ___ large picture window overlooking (9) ___ Queen Street, (10) ___ separate kitchen, (11) ___ bathroom with (12) ___ free-standing porcelain tub, and (13) ___ small living room, (14) ___ entire ceiling of which opened to (15) ___ large wire-meshed window that brightened (16) ___ whole apartment. My very first morning, before (17) ___ breakfast, I danced naked under my skylight.

(18) ___ district, too, had a certain irresistible charm. My visiting relatives would no doubt notice the occasional (19) ___ bag ladies and (20) ___ rubbies who passed back and forth from their homes in (21) ___ Moss Park. But there were also (22) ___ hundreds of immigrant families here - Italians, Greeks, Chinese, Armenians, Russians and Polish Jews - who had long ago established (23) ___ businesses and despite having fled to live in (24) ___ suburbs, returned morning after (25) ___ morning to tend their shops.

From Winter Tulips, by Joe Kertes

Chapter 12: Cumulative Exercise 12

- A) Write a one-page paper describing your house or apartment. Give it to an instructor to mark for article errors.

- B) Write a one-page paper describing an activity you did last summer. Give it to an instructor to mark for article errors.

- C) Write a one-page paper about the positive and negative aspects of life in Toronto. Give it to your instructor to mark for article errors.

GRADE SHEET FOR ARTICLES PROGRAM

Student First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Program: _____ Comm. Instructor _____

1) Test 1A ____% 1B ____% 1C ____% 1D ____% 1E ____% 1F ____% Date _____

2) Test 2A ____% Test 2B ____% Date _____

3) Test 3A ____% Test 3B ____% Date _____

4) Test 4A ____% Test 4B ____% Date _____

5) Test 5A ____% Test 5B ____% Date _____

6) Test 6 ____% Date _____

7) Test 7 ____% Date _____

PLEASE NOTE THAT HALFWAY POINT HAS BEEN REACHED. IF SCORES ON TEST 6 AND 7 ARE BELOW 75%. GO BACK AND START AGAIN

8) Test 8 ____% Date _____

9) Test 9 ____% Date _____

10) Test 10 ____% Date _____

11) Test 11 ____% Date _____

12) Test 12A ____ ERRORS Date _____

Test 12B ____ ERRORS Date _____

Test 12C ____ ERRORS Date _____

COMPLETE () INCOMPLETE ()

DATE COMMUNICATIONS INSTRUCTOR NOTIFIED _____

WRITING CENTRE TEACHER _____

ARTICLES MANUAL ANSWER SHEET

Exercise 1A: 1 c 2 - 3 - 4 c 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 c 9 c 10 - 11 c 12 - 13 - 14 c 15 - 16 c 17 - 18 - 19 - 20 c 21 c 22 c
23 - 24 - 25 c.

Exercise 1B: 1 - 2 c 3 c 4 - 5 - 6 c 7 c 8 - 9 c 10 c 11 - 12 - 13 c 14 c 15 - 16 - 17 - 18 - 19 - 20 c 21 - 22 -
23 - 24 - 25 c

Exercise 1C: 1 - 2 c 3 c 4 - 5 - 6 c 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 c 12 - 13 - 14 c 15 - 16 c 17 c 17 c 18 - 19 c 20 c 21 -
22 c 23 c 24 c 25 c

Exercise 1D: 1 e 2 a 3 f 4 f 5 i 6 c 7 h o r j 8 d 9 i 10 j 11 e 12 e 13 i o r d o r a 14 i 15 c 16 a 17 a 18 h o r j 19
e 20 d 21 e 22 d 23 c 24 d 25 e

Exercise 1E: 1.c 2 c 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 c 7 - 8 c 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 c 13 c 14 - 15 c 16 c 17 - 18 - 19 c 20 c 21 - 22 -
23 - 24 c 25 -

Exercise 1F: 1 - 2 c 3 c 4 - 5 c 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 c 10 c 11 c 12 - 13 c 14 c 15 - 16 c 17 - 18 - 19 c 20 c 21 - 22 -
23 c 24 - 25 c

Exercise 2A: 1 an 2 an 3 a 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 a 8 a 9 an 10 a 11 a 12 a 13 - 14 - 15 a 16 - 17 a 18 a 19 a 20 - 21
- 22 a 23 - 24 - 25 -

Exercise 2B: 1 - 2 a 3 - 4 a 5 - 6 a 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 a 11 a 12 a 13 an 14 a 15 an 16 a 17 - 18 - 19 - 20 - 21 -
22 an 23 a 24 - 25 a

Exercise 3A: 1 an 2 a 3 the 4 a 5 - 6 the 7 the 8 a 9 the 10 a 11 a 12 the 13 the 14 a 15 the 16 the 17 - 18
a 19 the 20 the 21 - 22 the 23 a 24 the 25 the

Exercise 3B: 1 - 2 - 3 the 4 an 5 the 6 a 7 a 8 the 9 a 10 the 11 the 12 a 13 the 14 the 15 the 16 the 17 - 18
- 19 the 20 - 21 the 22 - 23 the 24 a 25 an

Exercise 4A: 1 the 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 the 6 the 7 the 8 the 9 the 10 the 11 - 12 - 13 - 14 - 15 the 16 the 17 - 18 the
19 - 20 the 21 - 22 - 23 the 24 - 25 -

Exercise 4B: 1 - 2 - 3 the 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 the 9 the 10 - 11 the 12 - 13 - 14 - 15 - 16 the 17 - 18 - 19 the 20 - 21 - 22 - 23 - 24 - 25 -

Exercise 5A: 1 - 2 - 3 the 4 - 5 - 6 the 7 the 8 - 9 the 10 the 11 - 12 the 13 - 14 the 15 the 16 the 17 - 18 the 19 the 20 - 21 the 22 - 23 - 24 the 25 the

Exercise 5B: 1 the 2 the 3 - 4 the 5 the 6 - 7 - 8 the 9 the 10 the 11 the 12 the 13 the 14 - 15 - 16 the 17 - 18 - 19 the 20 - 21 - 22 the 23 - 24 the 24 the

Exercise 6: 1 - 2 the 3 a 4 the 5 - 6 - 7 the 8 a 9 a 10 the 11 the 12 the 13 a 14 - 15 an 16 - 17 the 18 the 19 the 20 the 21 - 22 the 23 - 24 a 25 the

Exercise 7: 1 the 2 the 3 a 4 - 5 - 6 the 7 an 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 the 13 the 14 the 15 - 16 the 17 an 18 - 19 the 20 the 21 a 22 - 23 the 24 the 25 -

Exercise 8: 1 the 2 a 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 a 7 a 8 - 9 the 10 the 11 a 12 a 13 the 14 a 15 the 16 an 17 the 18 the 19 - 20 the 21 the 22 - 23 the 24 the 25 -

Exercise 9: 1 the 2 the 3 - 4 - 5 the 6 - 7 the 8 the 9 the 10 the 11 - 12 the 13 - 14 - 15 - 16 the 17 the 18 - 19 - 20 the 21 the 22 - 23 a 24 a 25 an

Exercise 10: 1 the 2 a 3 - 4 the 5 the 6 - 7 a 8 the 9 a 10 the 11 an 12 - 13 the 14 the 15 a 16 the 17 the 18 the 19 a 20 a 21 an 22 the 23 a 24 - 25 -

Exercise 11: 1 - 2 the 3 - 4 a 5 - 6 the 7 a 8 a 9 - 10 a 11 a 12 a 13 a 14 the 15 a 16 the 17 - 18 the 19 - 20 - 21 - 22 - 23 - 24 the 25 -