**Articles Exercise 1**

**Exercise based on the opening text in *Thanks a Million***

**Please complete the following exercise using *a/an/the/0* (no article) in the underlined spaces where appropriate. Change capital letters to lower case letters at the beginning of a sentence if necessary.**

Ms Parrot, (1) the most famous lady detective of (2) the twenty-first century, was born in

(3) the United Kingdom in (4) the 1960s. Since then, she has been to many countries, including (5)0

Portugal, Singapore and Australia, and has lived in (6) the northern hemisphere and (7) the

southern hemisphere, as well as on (8) the equator. She has never been to (9) the Philippines or

(10) the United States, but she speaks (11) 0 English, French and Portuguese. Like Sherlock Holmes, (12) the famous detective, she plays (13) the violin, and sometimes practises up to five times (14) a day. She is also (15) the only person in (16) the world to have performed Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture [a long piece of music] in one breath on (17) the recorder. She has been (18) a detective for thirty years and claims that although many people think that being (19) a detective is (20) a piece of cake, detectives generally work very hard and it's not all fun and games. (21) A detective is someone who solves mysteries, and (22) the people who contact Ms Parrot have some very unusual problems. Little information is available about some of (23) the cases she has solved, but quite (24) a few of her most famous cases have attracted worldwide attention and she has been offered up to (25) a thousand dollars (26) an hour to help solve mysteries such as (27) the case of (28) an Australian owl in (29) a uniform. (30) The bird laid (31) an egg in (32) a European nest in less than (33) an hour after its arrival. What (34) a strange problem! With great (35) the modesty, she has either declined such (36) a fee or donated (37) the money to (38) the poor, or to (39) the Grammar Survival Fund, believing that (40) the detective should use their skills for (41) the common good.

**Articles Exercise 3**

Please complete the following exercise using *a/an/the/0* (no article) in the underlined spaces where appropriate. (Some articles have been included for you, but others are missing.) Change capital letters to lower case letters at the beginning of a sentence if necessary.

There has never been (1) a more exciting time to produce (2) a new dictionary. Everything is changing and expanding: the English language itself, the technology that helps us to describe it, and (3) the needs and goals of those learning and teaching (4) 0 English. (5) The 1980s saw the development of (6) the first large corpora (special collections) of English text. (7) 0 Another of the *Macmillan English Dictionary's* innovations is that two similar but separate editions have been created from (8) the same database: one for learners whose main target variety is (9) 0 American English, (10) the other for learners of British English. The differences are small but significant.

The *Macmillan English Dictionary* is the product of good linguistic data and high-quality people. It has been (11) a privilege to work with such (12) a talented and creative team, and I would like to thank (13) the team for producing such (14) an excellent book. I hope you enjoy (15) the results of our hard work and find the dictionary (16) a pleasure to use.

(adapted from Rundell, M 2002, 'Introduction', *Macmillan English dictionary for advanced learners,* Macmillan Education, Oxford, p. x.)