

## MEETING 1

# NOUNS & ARTICLES

### A. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

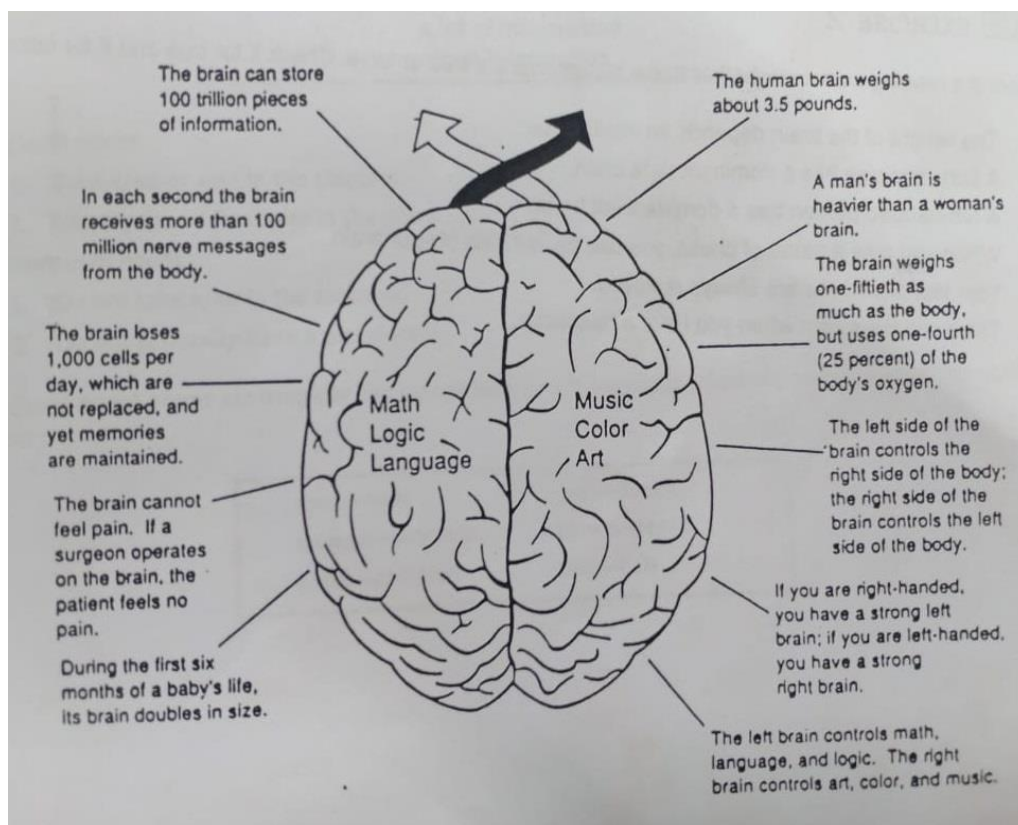
1. To explain the functions of nouns and articles
2. To explain the types of nouns and articles

### B. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

#### 1. INTRODUCTION:

##### a. Nouns

## The Brains



1

**Exercise 1:**

Nouns are tested on the TOEFL test. Complete these sentences with nouns.

1. The brain stores 100 trillion pieces of .....
2. Men's brains are heavier than .....brains.
3. The brain uses one-quarter, or .....of the body's program.
4. The left brain controls math, ....., and .....
5. The right brain controls color, ....., and .....
6. The human brain weighs about 3.5.....
7. The brain cannot feel.....
8. The brain receives more than 100.....messages from the body

**Exercise 2:**

From the reading work out whether statements are true or false. Check T for True and F for False.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. The weight of the brain depends on intelligence.                  | T | F |
| 2. A jazz musician has a dominant right brain.                       | T | F |
| 3. A left handed person has a dominant left brain                    | T | F |
| 4. When you play a game of chess you use the left side of your brain | T | F |
| 5. Your lost brain cells are always replaced                         | T | F |
| 6. The brain feels pain when you have a new headache                 | T | F |

**b. Articles****ISLANDS**

Some islands were originally parts of the continents. These islands were separated from the mainland as a result of a rise in sea level. For example, Great Britain was connected to the mainland of Europe about 11,000 years ago. As the climate got warmer, ice melted and the sea level rose. As a result, water covered the land that had connected Great Britain to the mainland.

Other islands rise from the ocean. Some are volcanoes, such as the island of Hawaii and the island of Japan. Some volcanic islands are millions of years old, but new islands are forming all the time. For example, Iceland was formed millions of years ago by volcano. In 1963, a volcano started to form a new island called Surtsey near Iceland.

Islands differ greatly in size. Greenland is the largest island in the world. The difference size of Greenland, geographers classify Australia as a continent.

**Exercise 3: Complete the sentences with the name of the country or island.**

1. Honshu is the biggest island in.....
2. ....is the biggest island in the world.
3. According to the geographers, .....is not an island, but a continent.
4. About 11,000 years ago.....was connected to Europe.
5. ....was formed by a volcano millions of years ago.
6. ....is a new island formed in 1963.

**Exercise 4: Complete the sentences below with information from the cart**

1. Greenland is the largest island. It is in the .....ocean.
2. ....is the second largest island. It is in the .....ocean.
3. ....is..... largest island. It is in..... Ocean.
4. ....is..... largest island. It is in .....Ocean.
5. ....is ..... fifth largest island. It is in ..... Ocean.
6. ....is..... largest island. It is in ..... Ocean.

**2. GRAMMARS:****a) NOUNS****Singular and Plural Nouns**

Nouns can be classified into two groups: count nouns, which can be counted and which take an *s*, and non-count nouns, which cannot be counted and which usually do not take an *s*.

**STRATEGY**

Look for a non-count noun that is pluralized where it generally should not be.

Look at the following table:

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<b>Count noun</b>	A cell	Cells
	One cell	Two cells
		Some cells
		A lot of cells
		Many cells
<b>Non-count noun</b>	Information	
	Some information	
	A lot of information	
	Much information	

*Count nouns*

1. Take **a/an** or one for the singular.
2. Usually take a final **s/es** in the plural

*Non-count nouns*

1. Do not take **a/an** in the singular
2. Do not generally have a plural form.

Some count nouns are irregular and do not take an *s* in the plural. Here are some common irregular count nouns:

Man-men	foot-feet
Woman-women	tooth-teeth
Child-children	fish-fish

Non-count nouns cannot be counted because they come in a mass or in an uncountable form. Nouns such as *blood*, *music*, and *excitement* cannot be counted. The following is a short list of some non-count nouns:

food	Rice, sugar, fruit, milk, bread, butter, cheese
Fluids	Blood, water, oil, coffee, tea, gasoline
Raw material	Wood, paper, glass, iron, silver, wool
Gases	Oxygen, nitrogen, air, pollution, steam
General	Furniture, mail, money, traffic, equipment
Groups	Jewelry, machinery, luggage, clothing, cash
Languages	English, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish
Academic Subjects	Chemistry, mathematics, psychology
Abstract things	Education, freedom, health, intelligence, beauty, knowledge, sleep, time

## 1. QUANTIFIERS

A quantifier is a word that indicates an amount or quantity.

- a. Some quantifiers are used only with plural count nouns.
- b. Some quantifiers are used only with singular count nouns.
- c. Some quantifiers are used only with non-count nouns.

*The amount of oxygen available to the brain is important.*

*If your brain gets less oxygen than it needs, you could become unconscious.*

- d. Some quantifiers are used with both plural count nouns and non-count nouns.

All	plenty of	any	a lot of
Enough	most	lots of	some
			more

*Brain cells use up a lot of energy.*

*Most animals rely on instinct.*

**Exercise 3:**

Correct the errors in noun forms in the following sentences.

1. Intelligence is the ability to use thought and knowledges to understand things and solve problems.
2. Hormones help adjust the mixture of sugar, salt, and waters in your body.
3. Psychology, meaning the study of mind and how it works, comes from a Greek word meaning lifes or soul.
4. Brain cells use up a lot of energy, so they need a constant supply of oxygens.
5. Each hemisphere of the brain receives information about the opposite side of the visual field.
6. Although millions of brain neurons are active at any one time, they do not use much electricity power.
7. Lights entering the eye forms an image on 130 million tiny light cells.
8. Most animal are able to rely on learning and memory.

**2. COMPOUND NOUNS****STRATEGY**

Look for compound nouns in which both nouns are pluralized, instead of just the second noun.

Compound nouns are two nouns that are used together to make one word or idea. The first noun act as an adjective to the second noun and usually does not take *s*. The second noun can be plural:

*Brain cell*

*brain wave*

*computer scientists*

Compound nouns may also be used with number of expression.

**STRATEGY**

Beware of compound nouns with numbers, where the compound noun used as an adjective may be in the plural form!

*The brain uses as much power as a ten-watt bulb. (noun used as an adjective)*

*The brain uses as much power as a lightbulb of ten watts. (noun used as noun)*

*He recited a 16,000-page book from memory. (noun used as an adjective)*

*He recited a book of 16,000 pages from memory. (noun used as a noun)*

### 3. NUMBERS

#### STRATEGY

When you see nouns involving numbers, such as *hundred*, *thousand*, *million*, make sure that they are not in the plural forms when they follow number.

Numbers such as *hundred*, *thousand*, *million*, and *trillion* are plural when there are no numbers before them.

*The brain receives 100 million messages a second.*

*The brain stores trillions of messages.*

### Exercise 4

Correct the errors in the following sentences.

1. People's brains weigh more now than they did 100 year ago.
2. Nerves impulses can travel at speeds of up to 488 feet per second.
3. The brain contains between 10trillions and 100 trillions neurons.
4. Each neutron is linked by synapses to thousand of other neurons.
5. Nerves endings below the skin's surface pick up sensation of cold, heat, and touch.
6. There are three to four millions pain receptors in the skin.
7. A three-year-old child's brain is two-thirds the size it will finally be.
8. The brain uses 25 percents of the blood's oxygen.

## b) ARTICLES

### 1. The Indefinite Article *A* or *An*

#### STRATEGY

Avoid confusion between *a* and *an*. Remember, *an* is used before a vowel sound.

Avoid confusion between *a* and *an*. Remember, *an* is used before a vowel sound.

The indefinite article *a* or *an* is used:

- a) Before singular count nouns to mean one. It is not used before non-count nouns, example:

*Australia is **a** continent.*

- b) *An* is used before a word that begins with a vowel sounds (a, i, u, e, o).

When words begin with “h” or “u” either *a* or *an* can be used depending on the sound:

***an** uncle*

***a** home*

***a** university*

***an** hour*

***a** union*

***an** honor*

- c) In a general statement:

They are performing ***a** drama*.

- d) To introduce a subject that has not been mentioned before: I saw ***a** snake*

- e) With certain numerical expressions:



*a great deal   a couple   a hundred   a third   a half*  
*a great many   a dozen   a lot of   fifty miles **an** hour*

f) With names of professions:

*He is **an** engineer.   She is **a** biologist.*

**Exercise 5: Circle a or an in the following sentences. Write “C” on the left if the sentence is correct. Write “NC” if the sentence is not correct. Correct the error.**

- .....1. Indonesia is a country made of thousands of islands.
- .....2. Greenland is an big with a permanent ice cap covering it.
- .....3. The Bahamas, which consist of 700 hundred islands, have a superb climate.
- .....4. Robinson Crusoe is a character in a book by Daniel Defoe.\
- .....5. Robinson Crusoe spent twenty years with his friend Man Friday on a uninhabited island.
- .....6. New Guinea is a country where there are a 700 languages.
- .....7. Etna is an active volcano on the island of Sicily.
- .....8. On the island of Borneo, there is a snake that can fly or leap up to 20 meters.
- .....9. The plants and an animals that live on an island may develop to be quite different.

## 2. The Definite Article *The*

### STRATEGY

Do not confuse *a/an* with *the*. Learn the rules for the use of *a/an* and *the*. The articles are often used one in place of the other on the exam.

The definite article **the** can be used before any noun, singular, plural, count, and non-count, when the noun is specific.

**The** island

**The** islands

**The** water

2. The definite article is used:

- a) When there is only one of the thing mentioned:

**The** sun is shining.

**The** sky is blue.

- b) When it is clear to both the speaker and the listener which thing or person is referred to:

*Could you open **the** door please? (both the speaker and listener know which door it is.)*

- c) Before a noun mentioned for the second time:

We rented a car for travelling. **The** car is blue.

- d) Before the superlative adjectives:

**The** biggest island is Greenland.

**The** most beautiful coral island is very small.

- e) Before names of musical instruments: *He plays*

**the** piano.

- f) Before a singular noun representative of a class things (names of animals, plants, inventions, and parts of the body):

**The** dodo is an extinct bird.

**The** Rafflesia is the world's largest flower.

Alexander Graham Bell invented **the** elephone.

He hit me on **the** head.

STRATEGY

Remember the uses of the definite article. It may be omitted when it should not be on the exam.

- g) Before decades and centuries:

*the 1800s*                      *the twenties*                      *the 20<sup>th</sup> century*

- h) Before expression of time and place:

<i>the morning</i>	<i>the future</i>	<i>the north</i>	<i>the front</i>
<i>the afternoon</i>	<i>the present</i>	<i>the south</i>	<i>the back</i>
<i>the evening</i>	<i>the past</i>	<i>the east</i>	<i>the middle</i>

- i) Before ordinal numbers (the definite article is not used with cardinal numbers):

Ordinal numbers:	cardinal numbers:
<i>The first</i>	<i>one</i>
<i>The second day</i>	<i>Day two</i>
<i>The sixth lesson</i>	<i>Lesson six</i>

- j) When speaking about a specific noun:

*Coffee originated in Ethiopia.* (general)  
*The coffee I had this morning was Brazilian.* (specific)

- k) Before names of countries, states, cities, universities, colleges, and schools that contain the word “of”, and before countries that have a plural name or have an adjective in the name, except for Great Britain:

*The United States The State of Florida The city of Boston*  
*The University of Texas The Netherlands The Philippines*

- l) Before names of oceans, rivers, seas, gulfs, and plural names of mountains , islands, and lakes (no article is used with singular mountains, islands, and lakes):

*The Pacific Ocean The Mississippi The Gulf of Mexico*  
*The Black Sea The Appalachian Mountains Mount*  
*Washington The Hawaiian Island Manhattan Island*  
*The Great Lakes Lake Michigan*

- m) Before the geographic areas, but not before names of continents:

*The middle East Asia*  
*The Orient Europe*

- n) Before the geographic areas, but not before names of continents:

***The middle East***      *Asia*

***The Orient***      *Europe*

- o) Before the names of fields of study when they contain word ***of***:

***The History of the United States***      *History*

***The literature of the Sixties***      *Biology*

- p) Before the names of wars (not including World Wars):

The war of Independence      ***The Civil War***

World War II      ***The Second World War***

- q) Before the names of ships, planes, trains, and people's family names (the definite article is not used with the names of people and names of magazine)

***The Browns***      *Robert Brown*

***The Mayflower***      *Time Magazine*      ***The Orient Express***

### III. ON THE TOEFL TEST

#### a. For Nouns

Nouns are tested in written expression section of the exam. Check for the following types of error with nouns.

1. A non-count may be pluralized.

Eg: In a person's lifetime, the brain can store 100 trillion pieces of informations.

A

B

C

D

The correct answer is (D): *information* is a noun-count noun and cannot be plural.

2. A plural noun may be used when the verb or phrase requires a singular noun.

Eg: Each part of the brains controls a separate part of the body.

A

B

C

D

- The correct answer is (B): a singular noun *brain* must be used with “part of the”.

3. A singular noun may be used when the verb requires a plural noun.

Eg: Human brain are more powerful than those of other species because of their

A

B

complex circuitry.

C

D

- The correct answer is (A): a plural noun *brains* must be used because the verb are is plural.

4. In compound nouns where two nouns are used together, both nouns may be pluralized instead of the just second noun.

Eg: Brain cells die at the rate of 100,000 per day by age 60, and they are not replaced like other body cells.

- The correct answer is (A): the correct form is *brain cells*.

5. In compound nouns involving numbers and measurements, the compound noun used as an adjective may be in the plural form.

Eg: Man's three-pounds brain is the most complex and orderly arrangement of matter in the universe.

- The best answer is (B): when a compound noun is used as an adjective, it is singular. Therefore the correct answer is *three-pound*.

6. When noun phrases involving a number such as hundred, thousand, or million follow another number, the plural form may be used

Eg: The brain loses fifty thousands neurons a day and yet maintains its basic patterns and

A

B

C

memories.

D

- The best answer is (A): the singular form of *thousand* should be used when it follows a number.

### b. For Articles

Articles are tested in the Written Expression section of the exam. Check for these three types of errors with articles:

1. The article may be used when it is not necessary, or not used when it is necessary.

Ex: Pelican Island in Florida and Oregon Islands in Oregon are wildlife refuges

A

B

C

D

- ➔ The best answer is C: the definite article *the* should not be omitted from the name of plural group islands.

The most coral islands develop from reefs that grow up around

A

B

C

volcanic islands.

D

- ➔ The best answer is (A). This is not a superlative form; therefore the article is not necessary.

2. *An* is used instead of *a* or vice versa. Also *a* or *an* may be used instead of *the* or vice versa.

A broad expanse of sea with a large number of islands is called

archipelago.

D

→ The best answer is D. An must be used before a noun beginning with a vowel sound.

3. Another word like a possessive adjective may be used instead of the article or vice versa.

The new island of Surtsey is its deal natural laboratory for scientists.

→ The best answer is C. the indefinite article an meaning “one” must be used.

- Coral reefs are limestone formation composed of tiny sea organisms and

A

B

C

the remains.

D

→ The best answer is D. The possessive adjective their must replace the definite article the to show its reference to sea organisms.

#### IV. EXERCISES on NOUNS & ARTICLES

**Directions:** From the four underlined words or phrases A, B, C, or D, identify the one that is not correct.

1. The potato was the staple of Ireland and when the crop failed in 1840, there was mass

A

B

C

starvations.

D

2. Sharks can maneuver considerably faster than other fish because they have no bones.

A

B

C

D

3. Although sugar cane and sugar beet look very different, the sugars that is refined

A

B

C

from them tastes almost the same.

D

4. Textiles industries are as widespread as food industries because both supply basic

A

B

C

human needs.

D

5. Many animal species are totally colorsblind, but the condition is very rare in humans.

A B C D

6. Our skulls is made up of eight cranial and fourteen facial bones.

A B C D

7. Diamonds, which is about 40 times as hard as talc, is made up of pure carbon.

A B C D

8. The oceans contain about 97 percent the world's water supply, and about another 2

A B C  
percent of the world's water supply is ices.  
D

9. Brain waves patterns vary among different people and in different activities.

A B C D

10. The ancestor of today's horse was a little mammal called eohippus, which first

A B  
appeared 54 millions years ago.

C D

11. Lasers are of great value in areas such as communications, industry, medicine, and

A B  
C scientific research.  
D

12. Dinosaurs are classified as reptiles, although some appear to have been warms-

A B C  
blooded.  
D

13. The watt is named after James Watt, the British engineer who developed the

A B  
steam engine in 1760s.

C D

14. Methane is a odorless burning gas and is the main ingredient of natural gas.

A B C D

15. The alcohol acts as a narcotic on the nervous system and the brain.

A B C D

16. Zachari Taylor was first president to be elected from a state west of Mississippi River.

A B C D



17. Barnacles, which are related to lobsters, shrimp, and crabs, make strongest glue.  
A B C D
18. In the 1860s Louis Pasteur discovered that bacteria in air caused the perishable food to go bad.  
A B C D
19. Land covers almost third of the earth's surface, of which two-thirds is too cold or too dry for farming.  
A B C D
20. "Old Faithful" in Yellowstone National Park is probably the world's most famous  
A B C D
21. Thermographs are special pictures that show the variation in heat emitted by different areas of body.  
A B C D