

ARTICLES, PREPOSITIONS AND INTERROGATIVES



DRILL 1: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. Answer: Definite
Specific information about the hospital is provided, making it well defined.
Specific info – “where their family doctor visits regularly”
2. Answer: Indefinite
No specific information about the apple is provided to make it well defined.
3. Answer: Indefinite
No specific information about ‘telephone call’ is provided.
4. Answer: Definite
Specific information about ‘servant maid’ – name of servant maid (Lakshmi) provided.
5. Answer: Definite
Musical instruments will always take a definite article before them.
6. Answer: Indefinite
No specific information to define ‘well-known detective’.
7. Answer: Indefinite
No specific information to define ‘honest person’.
8. Answer: Indefinite
No specific information to define ‘humble man’.
9. Answer: Indefinite
No definition provided for ‘lawyer’ and ‘case’.
10. Answer: Definite, Definite, Indefinite
Specific info about ‘cat’ – “which had been abandoned by”
Specific info about ‘boy’ – “who was....”
No specific info about ‘school dropout’.

Exercise 2

1. Answer: A
2. Answer: The (Ordinal number – sixth)
3. Answer: The (Definite article used always before musical instruments)
4. Answer: The (The talk is about one specific Chief Minister)
5. Answer: The (Superlative degree used – ‘Darkest dress’)
6. Answer: The (Specific definition provided for ‘instance’), the (Ordinal number – ‘Third’)
7. Answer: A
8. Answer: An
9. Answer: The (The talk is about one specific match which ended in a draw), A
10. Answer: A, A

Exercise 3

1. Answer: An
2. Answer: A, An
3. Answer: A, A, The (Specific definition for ‘dog’ – “dog he has”)
4. Answer: The (‘Peacock’ refers to the entire class of peacocks), A
5. Answer: The, The, The (The talk in the sentence has to contain specificity about teacher, list of students and test, to be correct in this context), An
6. Answer: The (Specific definition for ‘Monday’ – “on which I had met with”), An
7. Answer: The (National symbols will always take definite article before them), A
8. Answer: An
9. Answer: The (Specific definition for ‘SMS’ – “that she received”), An
10. Answer: The (Name of an epic book is used), A

DRILL 2: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. Answer:
a) b
b) d
2. Answer:
a) a
3. Answer:
a) a
4. Answer:
a) b

- b) d
5. Answer:
a) a
b) d
6. Answer:
a) c
b) d

DRILL 3: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

Answers from L-R and clockwise order

In, On, Under, Behind, In front of, Along, Across, Up, Down, Into, Out of , Onto, Beside, Against, Below, Above

Exercise 2

1. Answer: by
2. Answer: in
3. Answer: via
4. Answer: with
5. Answer: next to
6. Answer: on
7. Answer: at
8. Answer: after/close to
9. Answer: from/since
10. Answer: via

FACE

DRILL 4: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. Answer: all about
2. Answer: approved of
3. Answer: As per
4. Answer: Back to
5. Answer: Because of
6. Answer: In front of
7. Answer: Look forward to
8. Answer: Insisted
9. Answer: In common with
10. Answer: As long as

11. Answer: Away from
12. Answer: Out of
13. Answer: As far as
14. Answer: In addition to
15. Answer: From inside

Exercise 1

1. Answer: Without your information
2. Answer: To the temple
3. Answer: In the vegetable bin, with mould
4. Answer: From her professor
5. Answer: Of his friend's arrival, to the station, in a flash
6. Answer: Against constant worrying, about the future
7. Answer: Of his classmates, in the running race
8. Answer: At the debate competition

DRILL 5: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. Answer: Haven't they done their homework?
2. Answer: Will they be done by the time we get there?
3. Answer: Are Girish and Reeta going to get married?
4. Answer: Is she going to win the game?
5. Answer: Was Ravi being naughty while I was gone?

Exercise 2

1. Are there many people waiting for the bus? (Yes/No)
How many people are waiting for the bus? (Information)
Many people are waiting for the bus, aren't they? (Question tag)
2. Are you sending an email to the boss? (Yes/No)
When are you sending an email to the boss? (Information)
You are sending an email to the boss, aren't you? (Question tag)
3. Does the T-shirt fit you? (Yes/No)
How well does the T-shirt fit you? (Information)
The T-shirt fits you, doesn't it? (Question tag)
4. Is the chicken tasty? (Yes/No)
What makes the chicken tasty? (Information)
The chicken is tasty, isn't it? (Question tag)

Exercise 3

1. Isn't he?
2. Can't we?
3. Haven't I?
4. Didn't they?
5. Could they?
6. Did she?
7. Is it?
8. Shall I?
9. Isn't he?
10. Are there?

CONCEPT REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The, the
Category d – Object of reference is actually many in number, but we are specific about one object among the lot.

Specific definition for 'red T-shirt' provided – “over there”

Specific definition for 'green one' provided – “in your hand”

2. The
Category d – Object of reference is actually many in number, but we are specific about one object among the lot.

Specific definition for 'Tom' – “I wanted you to meet”

3. X
Category b – Omission of article before plural nouns when making generalizations
4. The
Category d -- Object of reference is actually many in number, but we are specific about one object among the lot.

Specific definition for 'office complex' – “new office complex near the temple”

5. X
Category b – Omission of article before plural nouns when making generalizations
6. The
Category c – Definite article before superlatives
Superlative – ‘most popular movie’

7. X

Category c – Omission of article before most proper nouns

Proper noun in the sentence – ‘Easter’

8. The, an

First blank:

Category d -- Object of reference is actually many in number, but we are specific about one object among the lot.

Specific definition for ‘doctorate degree’ – “behind my name”

Second blank:

Indefinite article because no specific definition provided for ‘honorary one’.

‘An’ is used because of the starting vowel sound with which ‘honorary’ is pronounced.

9. An

Indefinite article because no specific definition provided for ‘honorary one’.

‘An’ is used because of the starting vowel sound with which ‘hour’ is pronounced.

10. The

Category d -- Object of reference is actually many in number, but we are specific about one object among the lot.

Specific definition for ‘few sheets of paper’ – “I gave you last week”

11. The

Presence of the word ‘only’ tells us the presence of a single specific item. Hence the use of the definite article.

12. X

- For the verb ‘left’, ‘home’ is the adverb of place.
- An adverb of place talks about ‘where’ an action happens. In the given sentence, ‘home’ does the same job. Thus no article should be used to separate the verb and adverb.

13. The, a

First blank:

Keyword – Epitome

‘Epitome’ means ‘perfect example’. Since there can be only one specific perfect example for anything, the definite article ‘the’ is used.

Second blank:

No specific definition is provided about the ‘lot of money’. Thus an indefinite article is chosen.

14. X

Category b – Omission of article before plural nouns when making generalizations

The sentence talks about boys and girls in general. Thus no article is needed.

15. A

No specific definition provided for 'Harvard University student'. Thus an indefinite article is used.

Fill up with the appropriate prepositions:

16. Answer: Option b

Keyword: Evening

- 'Evening' refers to a time. Hence the preposition should be a preposition of time. This eliminates options a and c because they're prepositions of place.
- From the sentence, it is clear that the action is over before a stipulated period of time (evening). The accurate preposition to convey this meaning is 'by'.
- 'After' is used to convey the meaning of one event happening following another event.

17. Answer: Option a

- The only two valid expressions which can be formed using the prepositions given are 'on time' and 'in time'.
- In time – Before the time specified
On time – Exactly at the time specified
- Key part: He was able to arrange the necessary documents for the meeting
If he had time to arrange the necessary documents before the meeting, then it means that he should have been 'in time' for the meeting.

18. Answer: Option d

First blank:

By looking at the first blank, 'without' and 'by' can be good fits. Thus option a can be eliminated.

Second blank:

Elimination of option b – 'More' extra time is redundant because 'extra' by itself means 'more'.

Elimination of option c – 'Any' is always used only with countable nouns. It can never be a word used to quantify 'time', because 'time' is an uncountable noun.

Thus the answer has to be option d.

19. Answer: Option b

The answer can be obtained by solving the first blank alone.

First blank:

The only preposition which can fit in between 'race' and 'time' is 'against'. '*Race against time*' is a popular idiom which means hurry to meet a deadline.

E.g. sentence: We have only 90 minutes to prepare for the exam. It is going to be race against time.

Thus the answer has to be option b.

20. Answer: Option d

The answer should be a prepositional phrase indicating **time**.

Thus options a and c can be eliminated, for both 'in front of' and 'better than' do not indicate time.

Option b vs. Option d:

Key part: To show that you knew better

Because of the key part mentioned above, the only logical fit in the blank should be 'ahead of'.

21. Answer: Option
Question on hold

22. Answer: Option d

Key part: The monthly rent that he collected yesterday

Thus "the money I gave my landlord now" should be extra to the rent that "he collected yesterday". The only option which signifies this meaning of 'extra' is option d.

23. Answer: Option d

Option a can be eliminated because darting (running fast) 'over the river' is an illogical expression.

Option c – 'Across' is used to mean from one side to the other.

In the given sentence, falling 'from one side of the balcony to the other' is not logical. A better preposition would be 'from'. (Falling *from* the balcony)

Thus option c can be eliminated.

Option b –

Let's look at the second blank. Since there is a falling 'movement' involved, the right preposition should be 'onto' and NOT 'on'. Thus option b can be eliminated.

24. Answer: Option d

Options b and c can be directly eliminated because they contain no prepositions.

Keyword: Though

‘Though’ always connects two ideas of opposite nature.

Idea 1 – They are twins

The only answer option which makes an opposing idea to idea 1 is option d.

25. Answer: Option d

First blank:

‘Above’ can never be a logical fit for the first blank, as a preposition connecting ‘hospital’ and ‘house’. Thus option b can be eliminated.

Second blank:

Like for ‘above’, ‘from above’ cannot be a logical fit for the sentence, given that the talk is about recognizing a house. Thus option a can be eliminated.

Due to the presence of the keyword ‘even’, ‘by asking the watchman’ cannot be a good fit for the second blank. Due to the presence of the word ‘even’, the second blank should contain a preposition which talks about how the subject can do the action by himself. Thus option c can be eliminated.

Choose the appropriate question tag:

26. Answer: Option a

Type of given sentence – Affirmative

Subsequent nature of required question tag -- Negative

Pronoun – We

Auxiliary verb – Are

Thus the question tag should be ‘aren’t we?’.

27. Answer: Option b

Type of given sentence – Negative

Subsequent nature of required question tag – Affirmative

Pronoun – They

Auxiliary verb – didn’t

Thus the question tag should be ‘did they?’.

28. Answer: Option b

Type of given sentence – Affirmative

Subsequent nature of required question tag – Negative

Pronoun – She

Auxiliary verb – Had

Thus the question tag should be ‘hadn’t she?’.

29. Answer: Option d

Type of given sentence – Negative

Subsequent nature of required question tag – Affirmative

Pronoun – She

Auxiliary verb – didn't

Thus the question tag should be 'did she?'.

30. Answer: Option c

Type of given sentence – Negative

Subsequent nature of required question tag – Affirmative

Pronoun – I

Auxiliary verb – hadn't

Thus the question tag should be 'had I?'.

31. Answer: Option c

Type of given sentence – Negative

Subsequent nature of required question tag – Affirmative

Pronoun – We

Auxiliary verb – weren't

Thus the question tag should be 'were we?'.

32. Answer: Option d

Type of given sentence – Affirmative

Subsequent nature of required question tag – Negative

Pronoun – No pronoun used

Subject – The television

Auxiliary verb – was

While forming question tags, pronouns will be used to refer to subjects.

Pronoun to be used – It

Thus the question tag should be 'wasn't it?'.

33. Answer: Option b

Type of given sentence – Negative

Subsequent nature of required question tag – Affirmative

Pronoun – She

Auxiliary verb – hasn't

Thus the question tag should be 'has she?'.

34. Answer: Option a

Type of given sentence – Affirmative

Subsequent nature of required question tag – Negative

Pronoun – There

Auxiliary verb – Is

Thus the question tag should be ‘isn’t there?’.

35. Answer: Option c

Type of given sentence – Affirmative

Subsequent nature of required question tag – Negative

Pronoun – She

Auxiliary verb – No auxiliary verb specified

Verb – gave

Question tags can be formed only using auxiliary verbs. Thus, the auxiliary verb to be introduced here is ‘didn’t’.

The question tag will be ‘didn’t she?’.

