

ARTICLES, PREPOSITIONS AND INTERROGATIVES

Concept

Articles - words that introduce nouns.

- Indefinite articles – a (before words that begin with consonant sounds), an (before words that begin with vowel sounds)
- Definite article – the

Prepositions – a word that relates a noun or a pronoun to another word in a sentence.


- Preposition of place – in, on, under, beside, etc.
- Preposition of time – at, past, by, etc.
- Preposition of position – after, down, across, over, etc.
- Compound preposition – two or more words used together as one preposition – as far as, because of, instead of, away from, etc.
- Prepositional phrase – preposition + its object

Interrogatives - grammatical form used to ask a question.

(who, whose, whom, what, how, why, when, where)

- Yes/No interrogatives – questions which get either yes or no for answers
- Alternative interrogatives - offer two or more alternative responses
- 'Wh'-Interrogatives - they ask open questions and invite responses
- Question tags - tagged onto the end of a declarative sentence

Drills

Use a mark  to specify the type of article which fits into the blanks in the following questions. If the type of article is 'definite' then specify the category under which it is justified in the brackets at the end:

1. She took her grandfather to (Def / Indef) hospital where their family doctor visits regularly. (d)
2. I took (Def / Indef) apple to school today. ()
3. Mohan was doing his homework when he received (Def / Indef) telephone call. ()
4. Sheela finished cooking dinner before (Def / Indef) servant maid, Lakshmi arrived. ()
5. He has been learning to play (Def / Indef) saxophone for almost 20 years now. ()
6. Sherlock Holmes is (Def / Indef) well-known private detective. ()
7. His neighbour is (Def / Indef) honest person. ()
8. Rama was (Def / Indef) humble man. ()
9. We went to (Def / Indef) lawyer to file (Def / Indef) case against the landlord. (,)
10. On our way home, we saw (Def / Indef) cat which had been abandoned by (Def / Indef) boy who was (Def / Indef) school dropout. (, ,)

Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles:

1. Ronak is reading a book.
2. Joe liked _____ sixth room in my mansion.
3. I can play _____ violin very well.
4. _____ honourable Chief Minister has agreed to be present at the function.
5. This is _____ darkest dress in my wardrobe.
6. _____ only instance I forgot to bring my notebook was when I was in _____ third grade.
7. When I was wondering how to resolve this issue, _____ solution occurred to me and my boss was very happy with it.

8. Her grandmother was waiting for _____ auspicious moment to start the rituals.
9. _____ match having ended in _____ draw, the first prize was shared between Raju and me.
10. _____ wolf and _____ dog were playing together.

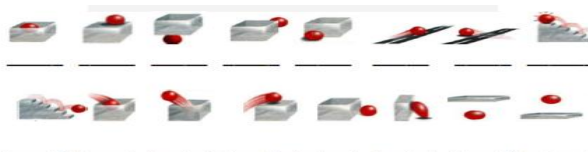
Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles:

1. Bala couldn't believe that he had passed so tough an examination.
2. My neighbour is _____ European. But, he looks like _____ Indian.
3. I would like _____ dog for _____ pet. But then, I wouldn't like to have _____ dog he has.
4. _____ peacock is one of _____ number of birds that visit this sanctuary every year.
5. When _____ teacher announced _____ list of students who were going to take _____ test again, there was _____ uncanny silence.
6. I always remember _____ Monday on which I had met with _____ accident.
7. Jim Corbett has described our national animal, _____ tiger, to be _____ large-hearted gentleman.
8. He is _____ MBA from this university.
9. She complained about _____ SMS that she received from _____ unknown number.
10. _____ Mahabharata is too long _____ story to be published in one volume.

Inspect each pair of sentences. For the first in the pair, specify the category under which the absence of articles before the highlighted word is justified. For the second, if the article used is 'definite', then specify the category under which the need for the article is justified:

1. a. We are so much used to working on **computers** that we cannot imagine office-life without them. (Before plural nouns when making generalizations) (b)
b. **The computers** that I use in my head-office have been transferred from the office godown. (See category under topic-1 "Definite articles") (d)
2. a. She had a couple of eggs for **lunch**.
b. No one would have served so extravagant a **lunch**.
3. a. The judge ruled that he be lodged in **prison** for his offence.
b. The constable decided to put him in a **prison** cell where he could sleep comfortably.
4. a. **Dogs** are very common domestic pets.
b. The authorities are planning to kill **the dogs** that are infected with rabies.
5. a. I am studying **English**.
b. **The English** that is spoken in England is different from that spoken in the U.S.
6. a. My friend left for **Delhi** yesterday.
b. **The Delhi** that you are going to see now is very different from how you knew it last.

What preposition does each of these pictures depict?



Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions:

- We all sat by the fire.
- I was lost _____ the crowd.
- The flight from Chennai to Delhi was _____ Hyderabad.
- He is _____ his cousin.
- The college is _____ the post office.
- We live in a street _____ the eighth avenue.
- _____ midnight, Radha craved mashed potatoes with grape jelly.
- Their boat came _____ our boat.
- Mr. Ranjith has worked in a bank _____ 1984.
- We flew from Germany to India _____ Dubai.

Use the words given in the box to form compound prepositions/ prepositional phrases which could meaningfully fit the blanks in the sentences:

all	insisted	apart	about	away	as
forward	to	front	addition	front	of
from	because	far	approve	insisted	per
inside	look	back	take	long	with
on	common	out			

- This exercise is all about prepositions.
- None of us _____ cheating in exams.
- _____ the law, he shall be hanged for his crime.
- I seem to be getting no better. I am _____ square one now.
- Today, I am here _____ of him.
- The boys stood in a queue to meet the Principal before going home. Gopal stood _____ Ravi so that he could go home early.
- My brother is coming home after many years. All of us _____ his visit.
- It was I who _____ this topic to be included in the syllabus.
- It is no wonder he decided to divorce her; they seem to have nothing _____ each other.
- The manager promised the clerk that he would not face any problem _____ he was heading the branch.
- To subtract a number from another is to take this number _____ the other.
- The teacher demanded him to take all his notebooks _____ his bag.
- _____ I know, this is the only way to answer this question.
- The money I gave you was _____ the monthly allowance you get from dad.
- He was at the gate and so, I could not hear him _____ the house.

Underline the prepositional phrases in the following sentences:

- I can't submit this report without your information.
- He asked me to take him to the temple.
- The sweet potatoes in the vegetable bin are green with mould.
- She found out the answer from her professor.
- When he heard of his friend's arrival, he was off to the station in a flash.
- She was advised against constant worrying about the future.
- It was hard to believe that he was far ahead of his classmates in the running race.
- Her arguments at the debate competition were quite shallow as against her friend's, whose were more profound.

- A. R. Rehman prefers to work from behind the scenes.
- He firmly believes that there is always a way out of any problem.

Rearrange the given words to form logical interrogatives:

- Done homework they their haven't?
- By time be done we there they will the get?
- To are Girish Reeta get married going and?
- Is to she game going win the?
- Ravi naughty I gone was was being while?

Use the given phrases and form possible proper interrogatives and name the type:

- many people waiting for the bus
- you sending an email to the boss
- the T-shirt fits you
- the chicken is tasty

Append appropriate question tags to the following statements:

- He is our teacher, isn't he?
- We can take your bike to go there, _____
- I have all the time in the world to do this job, _____
- They got the correct answer to this question yesterday, _____
- They couldn't have done any better in the exam, _____
- She didn't come to the meeting, _____
- The shop isn't open, _____
- Let me help you, _____
- He's there to tell you, _____
- There aren't many days left before your exams, _____

Concept Review Questions**Directions for questions 1 to 15: Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles. Wherever no article is required, mark with "X".**

- I like _____ red T-shirt over there better than _____ green one in your hand.
- He is _____ Tom I wanted you to meet.
- There is no evidence for this in _____ literature.
- Is your father working in _____ new office complex near the temple?
- Jack enjoys reading _____ horror novels.
- I just watched _____ most popular movie of the year.
- We always meet for _____ Easter.
- _____ doctorate degree behind my name is _____ honorary one.
- This bike can travel at 200 miles _____ hour.
- _____ few sheets of paper I gave you last week were brought by my brother.
- Two is _____ only even prime number.
- We left _____ home early last Sunday.
- My friend is _____ epitome of sacrifice. He has donated _____ lot of money to this orphanage.
- _____ boys are physically stronger than girls.
- He is _____ Harvard University student.

Directions for questions 16 to 25: Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions.

- _____ evening, the match had come to a close.
 - In
 - By
 - Near
 - after
- Ravi was _____ time for the meeting. So, he was able to arrange the necessary documents for the meeting.
 - In
 - On
 - By
 - before

18. I can do this work _____ asking _____ extra time.
a. In, by b. By, more c. Without, any d. Without, for
19. I had no time to finish my work. It was a race _____ time _____ me.
a. For, b. Against, c. With, for d. For, against for with
20. You should have told the answer _____ me to show that you knew better.
a. in front of b. immediately after
c. better than d. ahead of
21. It was _____ him that I was arguing with the Principal, but he seemed to have forgotten the very fact.
a. to save b. to help
c. instead of d. on behalf of
22. The money I gave my landlord now was _____ the monthly rent that he collected yesterday.
a. instead of b. in place of
c. out of d. in addition to
23. I darted _____ to save the old blind lady from falling _____.
a. over the river, down the railway track
b. across the bridge, on my boat
c. down the stairs, across the balcony
d. across the corridor, down the stairs
24. Though they are twins, they don't seem to have much _____.
a. to look forward to b. similarity
c. commonness d. in common
25. If you see the hospital, you can't miss my house; it is _____ it. You can recognise both even _____.
a. behind, from above b. above, by its colour
c. near, by asking the watchman d. next to, from behind
26. We are going on a picnic tomorrow.
a. aren't we? b. yes?
c. correct? d. isn't it?
27. They didn't hold us responsible for the matter.
a. didn't they? b. did they?
c. don't you agree? d. right?
28. She had committed a blunder in inviting them to the party.
a. did she? b. hadn't she?
c. has she? d. eh?
29. She didn't tell you where she went last week.
a. okay? b. huh?
c. what? d. did she?
30. I hadn't known the answer to this question.
a. have I? b. yes? c. had I? d. don't I?
31. We weren't told of your true situation.
a. were we told? b. should we know?
c. were we? d. did you?
32. The television set was too costly for me to buy.
a. did you see? b. yeah?
c. agree? d. wasn't it?
33. She hasn't the least confidence that she would pass the test.
a. wouldn't she? b. has she?
c. isn't it? d. wasn't it?
34. There is a way out of this problem.
a. isn't there? b. what is it?
c. how? d. what?
35. She gave me all the toffees she had.
a. did she? b. how many?
c. didn't she? d. really?

Directions for questions 26 to 35: Choose the appropriate question tag to each of these statements.