

## MEETING 6

# ARTICLES

### A. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To explain 3 important articles *a*, *an*, and *the* in English.

### B. THE AIMS OF THE TOPIC

1. Students are expected to understand the three important English articles, their functions, and their uses in sentences.

### C. GUIDANCE AND METHODS OF LEARNING

1. Lectures
2. Discussions
3. Presentations
4. Practices

### D. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

#### I. INTRODUCTION:

##### 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 1: 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 2: 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.

**II. GRAMMAR: ARTICLES**

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

**STRATEGY**

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:

<i>an uncle</i>	<i>a home</i>
<i>a university</i>	<i>an hour</i>
<i>a union</i>	<i>an honor</i>

- c. In a general statement:

*An* island is a body of land surrounded by water.

- d. To introduce a subject that has not been mentioned before:

I saw *a* snake.

- e. With certain numerical expressions:

<i>a great deal</i>	<i>a couple</i>	<i>a hundred</i>	<i>a third</i>	<i>a half</i>
<i>a great many</i>	<i>a dozen</i>	<i>a lot of</i>	<i>fifty miles</i>	<i>an hour</i>

- f. With names of professions:

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

**Exercise 3: 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

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 mention for the second time:

A bird flew into ***the*** classroom.

***The*** bird sat on my desk.

- 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 of 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** telephone.*

*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:

***the** morning*

***the** future*

***the** north*

***the** front*

***the** afternoon*

***the** present*

***the** south*

***the** back*

***the** evening*

***the** past*

***the** east*

***the** middle*

***the** west*

***the** top*

***the** bottom*

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

Ordinal numbers:

cardinal numbers:

***The** first*

*one*

***The** second day*

*Day two*

***The** sixth lesson*

*Lesson six*

- 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 names of fields of study when they contain word **of**:

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

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

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

*The War of Independence*

***The** Civil War*

*World War II*

***The** Second World War*

- p. 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*

#### Exercise 4: Fill in the blanks with the correct article a, an, the, or Ø

1. Islands make up .....entire land area of some countries, including.....Japan and .....Philippines.
2. ....Florida Keys are coastal islands built on coral reefs.
3. ....Mackinac Island in .....Lake Michigan is .....lake island.
4. ....city of Montreal, in ..... Canada, is built on .....large river island.
5. ....Aleutian Islands, part of .....Alaska, are .....string of coastal island that were built by .....volcanoes.
6. On .....big island of Hawaii is one of .....world's greatest volcanoes, .....Mauna Loa.
7. Kilauea is.....most active volcano in.....state of.....Hawaii.
8. The early settlers of.....Pacific Islands, .....Polynesians, always carried.....coconuts with them in their canoes.
9. In.....Indonesia..... huge lizard, .....Komodo Dragon, that eats deer and attack people.
10. ....dodo, a giant bird now extinct, lived on .....island of Mauritius, in .....Indian ocean.
- 11.

### III. ON THE TOEFL TEST

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  
A B C  
a 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.  
A B C D

➔ 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 ARTICLES

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

1. The watt is named after James Watt, the British engineer who developed the steam engine in 1760s.  
A B  
C D
2. Methane is a odorless burning gas and is the main ingredient of natural gas.  
A B C D
3. The alcohol acts as a narcotic on the nervous system and the brain.  
A B C D
4. Zachary Taylor was first president to be elected from a state west of Mississippi River.  
A B C  
D
5. Barnacles, which are related to lobsters, shrimp, and crabs, make strongest glue.  
A B C D
6. In the 1860s Louis Pasteur discovered that bacteria in air caused the the perishable food to go bad.  
A B  
C D
7. 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
8. "Old Faithful" in Yellowstone National Park is probably the world's most famous geyser.  
A B C  
D

9. Thermographs are special pictures that show the variation in heat emitted by  
A B C  
different areas of body.  
D
10. The world's fastest animal is cheetah, but if birds are included, the fastest of all  
A B C  
animal is the spine-tailed swift.  
D
11. The most of the energy used in our homes and factories is generated from coal, oil,  
A B C D  
and natural gas.
12. Soybeans were first grown in the Orient and brought to the Western world during  
A B C  
the World War II.  
D