

# Exercise: Definite and Indefinite Articles

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**COURSE: GENERAL ENGLISH**

## Part 1: Fill in the blanks

Fill in the blanks with "a," "an," or "the" where necessary. If no article is needed, leave the space blank.

I saw an elephant at the zoo.  
She bought an apple and a banana from the market.  
He is reading an interesting book about history.  
We stayed in the hotel near the beach.  
I saw the moon shining brightly last night.  
There was an old man sitting on the bench.  
We adopted a dog and a cat from the shelter.  
Can you pass me the salt, please?  
They live in an apartment in the city.  
We visited the Eiffel Tower during our trip to France.  
She found a unique solution to the problem.  
I need an hour to finish my work.  
We are going to a cinema tonight.  
He is looking for a job in marketing.  
We saw an amazing sunset yesterday.

## Part 2: Choose the correct answer

Select the correct article (a, an, the, or no article) for each sentence.

I need \_\_\_\_ advice on this matter.

- a) a
- b) an**
- c) the
- d) (no article)

We had \_\_\_\_ amazing time at the concert.

- a) a
- b) an**
- c) the
- d) (no article)

He is \_\_\_\_ honest person.

- a) a**
- b) an
- c) the
- d) (no article)

They climbed \_\_\_\_ highest mountain in Africa.

- a) a
- b) an
- c) the**
- d) (no article)

Can you give me \_\_\_\_ information about the event?

- a) a
- b) an
- c) the**
- d) (no article)

# Exercise: Definite and Indefinite Articles

## Part 3: Correct the mistakes

Each sentence below contains an incorrect use of articles. Rewrite the sentence correctly.

She adopted a elephant from the wildlife sanctuary.

→ **She adopted an elephant from the sanctuary.**

We went to a university in London.

→ **We went to the university in London.**

He is the engineer with a creative mind.

→ **He is an engineer with creative mind.**

I saw an beautiful rainbow after the rain.

→ **I saw a beautiful rainbow after the rain.**

She found a old coin in the garden.

→ **She found an old coin in the garden.**

## Part 4: Complete the paragraph

Fill in the blanks with "a," "an," "the," or leave it blank if no article is needed.

Yesterday, I had \_\_\_ unusual experience. I was walking in **the** park when I saw **a** little bird sitting on **the** bench. The bird had **an** injured wing. I picked it up carefully and took it to \_\_\_ veterinarian. The vet said it needed **a** few days to recover. After that, I released it back into **the** wild. It was **an** amazing moment!

## Part 5: Explanation Questions

Answer the following questions in your own words.

When do we use "the" instead of "a" or "an"?

→ We use **"the"** when we are talking about about specific thing or something known, and we use **"a"** before a word that start with consonant and we use **"an"** on word that start with vowel.

Why do we say "an hour" instead of "a hour"?

→ We say **"an hour"** because **"hour"** starts with a vowel sound (the **"h"** is silent), and we use **"an"** before words starting with vowel sounds, not just vowel letters.

When can we omit articles in a sentence?

→ Articles can be omitted in some cases, such as when talking about general ideas (e.g., "I love music"), or with plural and uncountable nouns when referring to something in a broad or general sense (e.g., "She likes dogs" or "Water is essential").

Why do we say "the sun" but "a star"?

→ **"The sun"** refers to the specific star that is central to our solar system, so it is definite. **"A star"** refers to any star in the universe, which is indefinite because it could be any one of many.

Explain the difference between "a university" and "an umbrella."

→ **"A university"** uses "a" because "university" starts with a **"yoo"** sound (a consonant sound), while **"an umbrella"** uses "an" because "umbrella" starts with a vowel sound (the "uh" sound). The article changes depending on the sound that follows, not just the letter.

# Exercise: Prepositions

## Part 1: Fill in the blanks

Complete each sentence with the correct preposition (in, on, at, by, for, with, from, to, under, over, between, among).

The book is lying **on** the table.

She was born **in** July.

We are going **to** the cinema tonight.

He sat **for** me and my brother at the dinner table.

The cat is hiding **under** the bed.

He walked **over** the bridge to get to the other side.

I will meet you **by** 5 PM.

The keys are **in** my pocket.

The train arrives **in** Paris at 9 AM.

She was punished **over** being late.

The phone is placed **between** the laptop and the lamp.

They traveled **by** plane to London.

The kids are playing **in** the park.

She finished the project **in** two days.

He drove **on** high speed through the city.

## Part 2: Multiple-choice questions

Choose the correct preposition for each sentence.

The meeting is scheduled \_\_\_\_ Monday morning.

- a) in
- b) on**
- c) at

He is very good \_\_\_\_ mathematics.

- a) in
- b) at**
- c) for

The plane is flying \_\_\_\_ the clouds.

- a) under
- b) between
- c) above**

I borrowed a book \_\_\_\_ the library.

- a) from**
- b) to
- c) by

She is interested \_\_\_\_ learning new languages.

- a) with
- b) in**
- c) at

# Exercise: Prepositions

## Part 3: Error correction

Each sentence has an incorrect preposition. Rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. She arrived to the airport early.  
→ She arrived at the airport early.
2. The painting is in the wall.  
→ The painting is on the wall.
3. I am waiting on the bus stop.  
→ I am waiting at the bus stop.
4. He is married with a doctor.  
→ He is married to a doctor.
5. They discussed about the project for hours.  
→ They discussed the project for hours.

## Part 4: Complete the paragraph

Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions.

Last summer, I went **on** a trip **with** my friends. We traveled **by** train **to** Paris. We stayed **in** a hotel that was located **at** the center of the city. Every morning, we had breakfast **at** a small café near our hotel. One day, we decided to visit the Eiffel Tower. We walked **on** the streets, enjoying the beautiful scenery. After reaching the tower, we took an elevator **to** the top. The view **of** the city was breathtaking!

## Part 5: Preposition transformations

Rewrite the sentences using different prepositions while keeping the meaning the same.

He sat beside me. → He sat **next to** me.  
The cat jumped onto the bed. → The cat jumped **on** the bed.  
We walked through the forest. → We walked **in** the forest.  
The shop is located opposite the bank. → The shop is located **straight to** the bank.  
The kids were hiding under the table. → The kids were hiding **below** the table.

# Exercise: Prepositions

## Part 6: Explanation Questions

Answer the following questions in your own words.

What is the difference between "in" and "on" when talking about places?

- **"in"** used in the place when you are talking about something that is inside the that place. **"on"** used to specify something that is over the something like, Ex: My book is on the table. This means that place is table but my phone is on/over that place.

Why do we say "interested in" instead of "interested on"?

- We use **"interested in"** because **"in"** shows involvement, focus, or a sense of being engaged with something. **"Interested on"** is not correct because **"on"** usually suggests a position or location, not a state of involvement.

When should we use "by" instead of "with" when talking about how something is done?

- **"By"** is used to describe the method, means, or agent doing something. For example, "I travel by car" means the method of travel is by car. **"With"** is used to talk about the tool or instrument used to perform an action. For example, "I write with a pen."

Why do we say "on Monday" but "in July"?

- We say **"on Monday"** because **"on"** is used for specific days or dates. **"In"** is used for months, years, or general periods of time, which is why we say "in July" (for a month)

Explain the difference between "between" and "among."

- **"Between"** is used when referring to two things or people. while **"Among"** is used when talking about things or people that are part of a group or a collective, where the focus is on the group as a whole rather than specific, distinct elements.