

# Advanced Premium Lesson 6

Articles

Use of English part 2

Speaking part 3

Listening part 1

Cambridge English  
**Advanced**  
Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)



# Articles

a an the  
? ? ?



link to exam

- you are expected to show 'good control of grammatical forms', this includes correct use of articles.

Candidates often lose marks in Use of English because of incorrect article use.

**We use the definite article (the) when general knowledge tells us there is only one...**

the sky



the sea

the future

the North Pole

the United Nations

the Pope

## Differences with Spanish

No article is used before uncountable and plural nouns when used in a general sense.

Life is good. (La vida es buena.)

I like music.

Use an article when talking about professions.

She's a dentist. (Ella es dentista.)

## Names and Places

We do not use **the** with names of people.

We do not *normally* use **the** with names of places.

However...



We use **the** with the names of oceans, seas, rivers and canals.



We use **the** with the names of deserts.

We use **the** with plural names of people and places.



We use **the** in names with Republic, Kingdom, States etc

# *a or an?*

**a** before a consonant sound

**an** before a vowel sound

dog  
apple  
European  
honest person  
MP hand  
hotel

a  
a  
an a  
a  
an an



# *a or an?*

**a** before a consonant sound

**an** before a vowel sound

a dog

an apple

a European

an honest person

a hand

an MP

a hotel

*Write a or an in the spaces. (A)*

1 ..... unreasonable decision

2 ..... unit of work

3 ..... honourable man

4 ..... UFO

5 ..... happy girl

6 ..... elephant

7 ..... BBC programme

8 ..... universal problem

9 ..... eucalyptus tree

10 ..... X-ray

11 ..... T-shirt

12 ..... H-bomb

13 ..... hospital

14 ..... UNESCO worker

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# Pronunciation of *the*

Pronounced / ðiː / before vowel

Pronounced / ðə / before consonant

the ice / ðiː /

the snow / ðə /

town

hour

dog

hotel

elephant

zebra

dinosaur

housewife

opening

apple

egg

frozen ice cream

## Pronunciation of *the*

Pronounced / ðiː / before vowel

Pronounced / ðə / before consonant

ðiː

elephant

hour

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ðə

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hotel

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zebra

dog

frozen ice cream

housewife

(1) ..... A ..... single South China tiger has been caught on camera by (2) ..... hunter-turned-farmer, (3) ..... first confirmed sighting for 30 years of (4) ..... sub-species that (5) ..... experts had feared was extinct, (6) ..... Xinhua news agency said on Friday. Zhou Zhenglong took over 70 snaps of (7) ..... young tiger lying in (8) ..... grass near (9) ..... cliff in (10) ..... mountainous part of China. (11) ..... experts confirmed (12) ..... images showed one of (13) ..... elusive cats.



Curiously, (14) ..... villagers from (15) ..... farmer's home area had reported (16) ..... sightings of (17) ..... tigers, and paw-prints, but apparently none had been confirmed for (18) ..... decades.

'There has been no record of (19) ..... wild South China tiger in more than 30 years, and it was only (20) ..... estimate that China still had 20 to 30 such wild tigers,' Xinhua quoted a source



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**Correct the sentences, focusing on the use of articles. Then compare with a partner and explain your corrections.**

- 1** If you join the army in the UK, you can study a corresponding degree for free.
- 2** Harry is planning to join an expedition to climb the Mount Kilimanjaro the next year.
- 3** I would like to do a research into the mosquito-borne diseases.
- 4** There was a thought-provoking documentary about FBI on TV the last night.
- 5** Research has shown that the female students tend to do better than the male students at academic subjects.
- 6** The deadline for handing in your dissertation is the Friday after next.



- 1** If you join the army in the UK, you can study a corresponding degree for free.
- 2** Harry is planning to join an expedition to climb the Mount Kilimanjaro the next year.
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- 5** Research has shown that the female students tend to do better than the male students at academic subjects.
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**1** ✓. *the army* – specific group; *a corresponding* – not specifying which degree

**2** ~~the~~ *Mount Kilimanjaro the next year.* – Mountains do not use the definite article. *Next / last* + time period don't take an article.

**3** ~~a~~ *research* – uncountable noun; ~~the~~ *mosquito-borne diseases* – plural

**4** *the FBI* – specific group; ~~the~~ *last night* – *Next / last* + time period don't take an article.

**5** ~~the~~ *female students ... the male students* – plural noun that implies *in general*

**6** ✓ – specific situations

**Decide what the difference in meaning is between these pairs of sentences.**

- 1**   **a**   Mauricio went to school in London.  
      **b**   Mauricio went to a school in London.
- 2**   **a**   The workers will benefit from this new law.  
      **b**   Workers will benefit from this new law.
- 3**   **a**   His father is in prison right now.  
      **b**   His father is at the prison right now.
- 4**   **a**   There is little evidence that learning disorders are hereditary.  
      **b**   There is a little evidence that learning disorders are hereditary.
- 5**   **a**   In future, all test results will be emailed to candidates.  
      **b**   In the future, all test results will be emailed to candidates.

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- 5** **a** In future, all test results will be emailed to candidates.  
**b** In the future, all test results will be emailed to candidates.

**1 a** He studied at length in London.

**b** He visited a school for some reason which is not evident without more context.

**2 a** A specific group of workers will benefit (understood by speaker and listener).

**b** All workers will benefit from this new law.

**3 a** His father is a prisoner.

**b** His father is visiting the prison.

**4 a** *little* means *not much* with the overall implication being negative.

**b** *a little* means *some*, and the implication is small but significant.

**5 a** *In future* means from now on. Implication is that any future test results will be emailed to candidates.

**b** *In the future* means at some point in the future. Implication is that this will happen at some undefined moment.

## **Idioms and other fixed expressions**

In a lot of idiomatic expressions articles are used or left out for no apparent reason other than that they belong or don't belong in the expression. Learners need to learn these like items of vocabulary, and have to remember the whole phrase, ignoring general rules or sub-rules

■ bit of

in ■ hurry

make ■ start

have ■ drink

on ■ coast

in ■ pink

off ■ record

do ■ turn

go to ■ wall

play ■ blues

through ■ nose

in ■ debt

on ■ loan

out of ■ action

Do any of these contain articles?

*a bit of*

*in a hurry*

*make a start*

*have a drink*

*on the coast*

*in the pink*

*off the record*

*do a turn*

*go to the wall*

*play the blues*

*through the nose*

*in [ ] debt*

*on [ ] loan*

*out of [ ] action*



## The origins of chess

A great (0) *deal* has been written about the origins of modern chess, and there (1) ..... still considerable debate about the subject. (2) ..... theory most widely accepted is that its earliest ancestor was Shaturanga, a game played in India from around AD 600. (3) ..... with modern chess, Shaturanga was played on a board with 64 squares. Pieces such as Kings, Queens and Knights were able to move in different ways with (4) ..... aim of capturing other pieces and, at the end of the game, the opponent's King. Unlike chess, it was played by four people, (5) ..... with their own army, the other main difference (6) ..... the use of dice to decide which piece moved each turn. Some chess historians believe that the game in fact derives (7) ..... a Persian game, Shatranj, the first references to which also (8) ..... from the sixth century. In Shatranj, the powers of the King to move and capture pieces (9) ..... more limited than in Shaturanga. (10) ..... there may be disagreement about its origins, it is generally accepted that chess in essentially the form it is played today appeared in southern Europe around the end of the fifteenth century and quickly spread (11) ..... the continent. (12) ..... this time, the Queen had become the most powerful piece of all. Today, chess has become one of the world's (13) ..... popular games. It is played by millions of people both informally and in tournaments, and (14) ..... number of people playing online (15) ..... increasing with access to the Internet.

## Extra help

### The origins of chess

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each  
By  
As  
are  
across  
The  
the  
Although  
the  
is  
is  
from  
come  
being



## Answers

1 is 2 The 3 As / Along 4 the 5 each 6 being 7 from  
8 come / stem / date 9 are / were 10 Although / While  
11 across / through / throughout / around 12 By 13 most  
14 the 15 is

# Speaking Practice



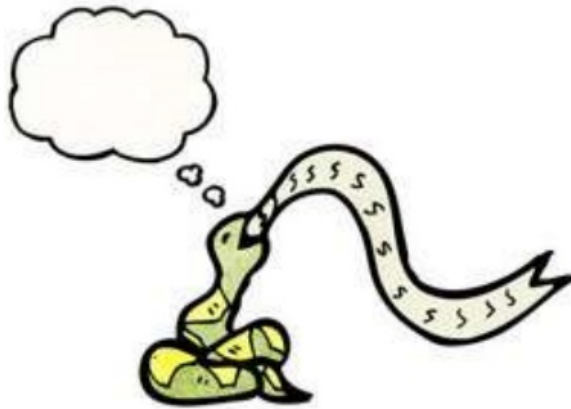
## **Pronunciation**

Say 'stress'

Is the first sound a vowel or a consonant?

.....

It should be a clear consonant sound, without any /e/.



Try these words:

Spain

stress

snooker

street

Now try a sentence:

In Spain people reduce stress by playing snooker in the street.

## Speaking part 3 - talk together about the advantages and disadvantages of these ways of reducing stress

### Ways to reduce stress

do regular exercise

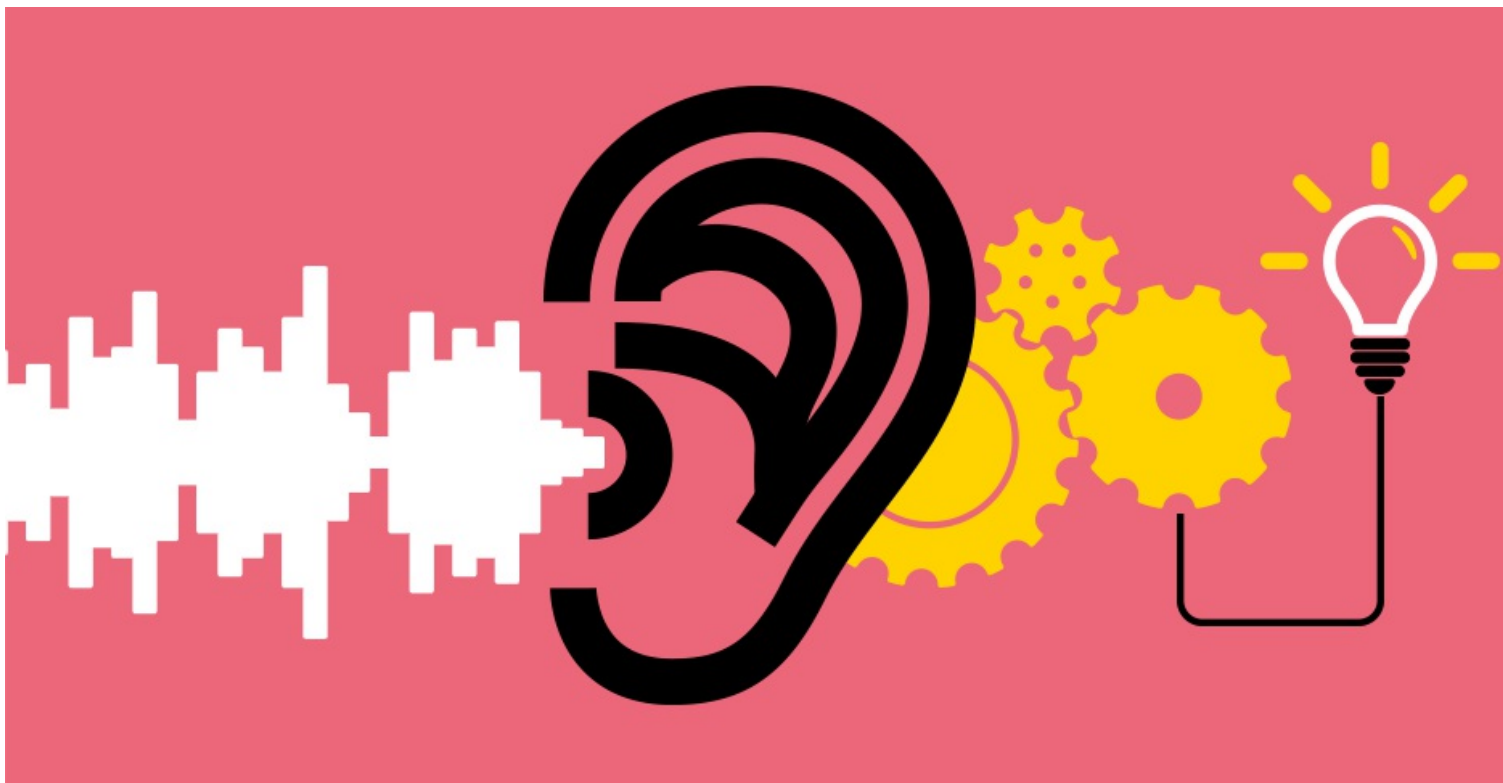
have a night out with friends

buy a pet

turn off your mobile phone

listen to relaxing music

# Listening part 1



### **Extract One**

- 1** When discussing an online article they have both read, the friends agree that
- A** teenagers have a mature attitude towards social media.
  - B** the writer is being unfair in their criticism of influencers.
  - C** influencers use social media in a widely inclusive way.
- 2** In the woman's opinion, the problem with using influencers to advertise on social media is
- A** the lack of sincerity shown to consumers.
  - B** the excessive fees charged by the influencers.
  - C** the obsessive behaviour of the people following influencers.

## **Extract Two**

- 3** Which research findings into fake news does the man question?
- A** that people lack awareness of the tricks used by news publishers
  - B** that people often trust stories that correspond to their opinions
  - C** that people find it an entertaining distraction from reality
- 4** How does the woman respond to her friend's complaint?
- A** She recommends reading a wider variety of sources for news.
  - B** She suggests trying out a technical solution.
  - C** She can't understand his decision to turn away from current affairs.



### **Extract Three**

- 5** What point does the woman make about the project she is doing?
- A** How grateful she is for some advice she received from a friend
  - B** How appreciative she is of contemporary resources for learning
  - C** How repetitive she found doing all the research
- 6** The man says that since starting to watch online talks he has become
- A** more creative in his general approach to study skills.
  - B** less embarrassed about his lack of technical proficiency.
  - C** more willing to collaborate with his peers on his course.

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## Advanced Premium Homework - Class 6

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