

Articles Exercise 1

Exercise based on the opening text in *Thanks a Million*

Please complete the following exercise using *a/an/the/0* (no article) in the underlined spaces where appropriate. Change capital letters to lower case letters at the beginning of a sentence if necessary.

Ms Parrot, (1) ___ most famous lady detective of (2) ___ twenty-first century, was born in (3) ___ United Kingdom in (4) ___ 1960s. Since then, she has been to many countries, including (5) ___ Portugal, Singapore and Australia, and has lived in (6) ___ northern hemisphere and (7) ___ southern hemisphere, as well as on (8) ___ equator. She has never been to (9) ___ Philippines or (10) ___ United States, but she speaks (11) English, French and Portuguese. Like Sherlock Holmes, (12) ___ famous detective, she plays (13) ___ violin, and sometimes practises up to five times (14) ___ day. She is also (15) ___ only person in (16) ___ world to have performed Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture [a long piece of music] in one breath on (17) ___ recorder.

She has been (18) ___ detective for thirty years and claims that although many people think that being (19) ___ detective is (20) ___ piece of cake, detectives generally work very hard and it's not all fun and games. (21) ___ detective is someone who solves mysteries, and (22) ___ people who contact Ms Parrot have some very unusual problems. Little information is available about some of (23) ___ cases she has solved, but quite (24) ___ few of her most famous cases have attracted worldwide attention and she has been offered up to (25) ___ thousand dollars (26) ___ hour to help solve mysteries such as (27) ___ case of (28) ___ Australian owl in (29) ___ uniform. (30) ___ bird laid (31) ___ egg in (32) ___ European nest in less than (33) ___ hour after its arrival. What (34) ___ strange problem!

With great (35) ___ modesty, she has either declined such (36) ___ fee or donated (37) ___ money to (38) ___ poor, or to (39) ___ Grammar Survival Fund, believing that (40) ___ detective should use their skills for (41) ___ common good.

Answers to Articles Exercise 1 – Passage with correct articles inserted

Ms Parrot, (1) **the** most famous lady detective of (2) **the** twenty-first century, was born in (3) **the** United Kingdom in (4) **the** 1960s. Since then, she has been to many countries, including (5) **0** Portugal, Singapore and Australia, and has lived in (6) **the** northern hemisphere and (7) **the** southern hemisphere, as well as on (8) **the** equator. She has never been to (9) **the** Philippines or (10) **the** United States, but she speaks (11) **0** English, French and Portuguese. Like Sherlock Holmes, (12) **the** famous detective, she plays (13) **the** violin, and sometimes practises up to five times (14) **a** day. She is also (15) **the** only person in (16) **the** world to have performed Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture in one breath on (17) **the** recorder.

She has been (18) **a** detective for thirty years and claims that although many people think that being (19) **a** detective is (20) **a** piece of cake, detectives generally work very hard and it's not all fun and games. (21) **A** detective is someone who solves mysteries, and (22) **the** people who contact Ms Parrot have some very unusual problems. Little information is available about some of (23) **the** cases she has solved, but quite (24) **a** few of her most famous cases have attracted worldwide attention and she has been offered up to (25) **a** thousand dollars (26) **an** hour to help solve mysteries such as (27) **the** case of (28) **an** Australian owl in (29) **a** uniform. (30) **The** bird laid (31) **an** egg in (32) **a** European nest in less than (33) **an** hour after its arrival. What (34) **a** strange problem!

With great (35) **0** modesty, she has either declined such (36) **a** fee or donated (37) **the** money to (38) **the** poor, or to (39) **the** Grammar Survival Fund, believing that (40) **the** detective should use their skills for (41) **the** common good.

Detailed Answers to Articles Exercise 1

- 1 **the** *detective* – Singular countable noun; superlative (*most*)
- 2 **the** *century* – Singular countable noun; ordinal (*twenty-first*)
- 3 **the** *United Kingdom* – a country with 'United' in the name
- 4 **the** *1960s* – a decade
- 5 **0** *Portugal* – Country names don't usually take an article, unless they are plural or have 'United' in the name
- 6 **the** *northern hemisphere* – Singular countable noun; a unique place – there is only one northern hemisphere
- 7 **the** *southern hemisphere* – Singular countable noun; a unique place – there is only one southern hemisphere
- 8 **the** *equator* – a unique place – there is only one equator
- 9 **the** *Philippines* – a country with a plural name
- 10 **the** *United States* – a country with a plural name
- 11 **0** *English* – a language
- 12 **the** *detective* – Singular countable noun; everyone knows about this detective, so he is not just 'a famous detective' (one of many) but 'the famous detective' whose name everyone knows
- 13 **the** *violin* – Singular countable noun; playing an instrument
- 14 **a** *day* – Singular countable noun; a rate

- 15 **the** *only person* – Singular countable noun preceded by a unique adjective (*only*)
- 16 **the** *world* – Singular countable noun; a unique place
- 17 **the** *recorder* – Singular countable noun; this is similar to ‘she plays the recorder’. It refers to a kind of instrument, not a particular example of that instrument.
- 18 **a** *detective* – Singular countable noun; a job
- 19 **a** *detective* – Singular countable noun; a job
- 20 **a** *piece* – Singular countable noun; a single part of a whole. (*A piece of cake* is also an idiom meaning ‘very simple’.)
- 21 **a** *detective* – Singular countable noun; definition. Definitions can take ‘a’ or ‘the’. In this case, it means that any detective is a person who solves mysteries.
- 22 **the** *people* – Plural countable noun followed by a relative clause (*who contact Ms Parrot*)
- 23 **the** *cases* – Plural countable noun followed by a relative clause (abbreviated from *which she has solved*)
- 24 **a** *few* – Pronoun (*a few*); positive, meaning ‘some’
- 25 **a** *thousand* – A number; *a* is used instead of *one*
- 26 **an** *hour* – Singular countable noun starting with a vowel sound; a rate.
- 27 **the** *case* – Singular countable noun; specific (we know which case) and followed by *of*
- 28 **an** *owl* – Singular countable noun; first mention. *Australian* starts with a vowel sound, so it takes *an*. In many detective novels, you will see titles such as *The case of the city clerk* (by Agatha Christie). This is a convention in detective novel titles, and draws the reader into the plot, as though they are already familiar with the case.
- 29 **a** *uniform* – Singular, countable noun starting with a consonant sound; first mention
- 30 **the** *bird* – Singular, countable noun; we know which bird – the owl that was mentioned previously
- 31 **an** *egg* – Singular, countable noun starting with a vowel sound; first mention
- 32 **a** *European nest* – Singular, countable noun preceded by an adjective starting with a consonant sound; first mention
- 33 **an** *hour* – Singular, countable noun starting with a vowel sound; first mention
- 34 **a** *problem* – Singular, countable noun; first mention. This is also an exclamation, and exclamations often take *a*
- 35 **0** *modesty* – Uncountable noun
- 36 **a** *fee* – Singular, countable noun; expression *such a* takes *a*
- 37 **the** *money* – Uncountable noun; *money* is associated with *fee*, so we know which money and it becomes definite
- 38 **the** *poor* – Uncountable noun; an adjective used as a noun
- 39 **the** *Grammar Survival Fund* – Singular, countable noun; names of organisations usually take *the*
- 40 **the** *detective* – Singular, countable noun; a representative of a class
- 41 **the** *good* – Uncountable noun; an adjective used as a noun

Articles Exercise 2

Exercise based on the opening text in *Thanks a Million*

This exercise is very difficult because no gaps are indicated.

Can you add articles (*a/an/the*) where necessary in the following text? Change capital letters to lower case letters at the beginning of a sentence if necessary.

Ms Parrot, most famous lady detective of twenty-first century, was born in United Kingdom in 1960s. Since then, she has been to many countries, including Portugal, Singapore and Australia, and has lived in northern hemisphere and southern hemisphere, as well as on equator. She has never been to Philippines or United States, but she speaks English, French and Portuguese. Like Sherlock Holmes, famous detective, she plays violin, and sometimes practises up to five times day. She is also only person in world to have performed Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture in one breath on recorder.

She has been detective for thirty years and claims that although many people think that being detective is piece of cake, detectives generally work very hard and it's not all fun and games. detective is someone who solves mysteries, and people who contact Ms Parrot have some very unusual problems. Little information is available about some of cases she has solved, but quite few of her most famous cases have attracted worldwide attention and she has been offered up to thousand dollars hour to help solve mysteries such as case of Australian owl in uniform. bird laid egg in European nest in less than hour after its arrival. What strange problem!

With great modesty, she has either declined such fee or donated money to poor, or to Grammar Survival Fund, believing that detective should use their skills for common good.

Answers to Articles Exercise 2 – Passage with correct articles inserted

Ms Parrot, **the** most famous lady detective of **the** twenty-first century, was born in **the** United Kingdom in **the** 1960s. Since then, she has been to many countries, including Portugal, Singapore and Australia, and has lived in **the** northern hemisphere and **the** southern hemisphere, as well as on **the** equator. She has never been to **the** Philippines or **the** United States, but she speaks English, French and Portuguese. Like Sherlock Holmes, **the** famous detective, she plays **the** violin, and sometimes practises up to five times **a** day. She is also **the** only person in **the** world to have performed Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture in one breath on **the** recorder.

She has been **a** detective for thirty years and claims that although many people think that being **a** detective is **a** piece of cake, detectives generally work very hard and it's not all fun and games. **A** detective is someone who solves mysteries, and **the** people who contact Ms Parrot have some very unusual problems. Little information is available about some of **the** cases she has solved, but quite **a** few of her most famous cases have attracted worldwide attention and she has been offered up to **a** thousand dollars **an** hour to help solve mysteries such as **the** case of **an** Australian owl in **a** uniform. **The** bird laid **an** egg in **a** European nest in less than **an** hour after its arrival. What **a** strange problem!

With great modesty, she has either declined such **a** fee or donated **the** money to **the** poor, or to **the** Grammar Survival Fund, believing that **the** detective should use their skills for **the** common good.

Detailed Answers to Articles Exercise 2

Ms Parrot, (1) **the** most famous lady detective of (2) **the** twenty-first century, was born in (3) **the** United Kingdom in (4) **the** 1960s. Since then, she has been to many countries, including (5) Portugal, Singapore and Australia, and has lived in (6) **the** northern hemisphere and (7) **the** southern hemisphere, as well as on (8) **the** equator. She has never been to (9) **the** Philippines or **the** United States, but she speaks (10) English, French and Portuguese. Like Sherlock Holmes, (11) **the** famous detective, she plays (12) **the** violin, and sometimes practises up to five times (13) **a** day. She is also (14) **the** only person in (15) **the** world to have performed Tchaikovsky's 1812 (16) overture in one (17) breath on (18) **the** recorder.

She has been (19) **a** detective for (20) thirty years and claims that although (21) many people think that being (22) **a** detective is (23) **a** piece of cake, (24) detectives generally work very hard and it's not all (25) fun and (26) games. (27) **A** detective is someone who solves (28) mysteries, and (29) **the** people who contact Ms Parrot have some very unusual (30) problems. (31) Little information is available about some of (32) **the** cases she has solved, but quite (33) **a** few of (34) her most famous cases have attracted worldwide (35) attention and she has been offered up to (36) **a** thousand dollars (37) **an** hour to help solve (38) mysteries such as (39) **the** case of (40) **an** Australian owl in (41) **a** uniform. (42) **The** bird laid (43) **an** egg in (44) **a** European nest in less than (45) **an** hour after (46) its arrival. What (47) **a** strange problem!

With great (48) modesty, she has either declined such (49) **a** fee or donated (50) **the** money to (51) **the** poor, or to (52) **the** Grammar Survival Fund, believing that (53) **the** detective should use (54) their skills for (55) **the** common good.

The tips below indicate why a certain article is used or not used in the text above. This text is also explained in detail at the beginning of the quiz show in the video.

- 1 *the most famous lady detective* – superlative
- 2 *the twenty-first century* – ordinal
- 3 *the United Kingdom* – a country with 'United' in the name
- 4 *the 1960s* – a decade
- 5 *Portugal, Singapore, Australia* – country names don't usually take an article, unless they are plural or have 'United' in the name
- 6 *the northern hemisphere* – a unique place – there is only one northern hemisphere
- 7 *the southern hemisphere* – a unique place – there is only one southern hemisphere
- 8 *the equator* – a unique place – there is only one equator
- 9 *the Philippines, the United States* – countries with plural names (other examples are the Netherlands, the Maldives and the Seychelles)
- 10 *English, French, Portuguese* – the names of languages do not take articles
- 11 *the famous detective* – everyone knows about this detective, so he is not just 'a famous detective' (one of many) but 'the famous detective' whose name everyone knows
- 12 *plays the violin* – playing an instrument
- 13 *five times a day* – a rate
- 14 *the only* – a unique adjective
- 15 *the world* – a unique place

- 16 *Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture* – the noun 'overture' is preceded by a possessive (Tchaikovsky's). This piece of music is sometimes called *the 1812 overture*, because there is only one famous piece of music with this name.
- 17 *one breath* – the word 'one' replaces an article
- 18 *the recorder* – this is similar to 'she plays the recorder'. It refers to a kind of instrument, not a particular example of that instrument.
- 19 *a detective* – someone's job
- 20 *thirty years* – no article is needed because there is a number
- 21 *many people* – no article is needed after *many*
- 22 *a detective* – someone's job
- 23 *a piece of cake* – a single part of a whole. (*A piece of cake* is also an idiom meaning 'very simple'.)
- 24 *detectives generally* – plural and not specific
- 25 *fun* – uncountable noun and not specific
- 26 *games* – plural noun and not specific. (*Fun and games* is an idiom referring to something enjoyable.)
- 27 *a detective* – definition. Definitions can take 'a' or 'the'. In this case, it means that any detective is a person who solves mysteries.
- 28 *mysteries* – plural noun used generally
- 29 *the people who contact Ms Parrot* – noun followed by a relative clause ('who contact Ms Parrot')
- 30 *some very unusual problems* – no article is needed after *some*
- 31 *little information* – negative – not very much.
- 32 *the cases she has solved* – noun followed by a relative clause (abbreviated from *which she has solved*)
- 33 *a few* – positive, meaning 'some'
- 34 *her most famous cases* – possessive *her*, so no need for an article
- 35 *attention* – uncountable noun used generally
- 36 *a thousand dollars* – *a* is used instead of *one*
- 37 *an hour* – a rate, and *hour* starts with a vowel sound so it takes *an*
- 38 *mysteries* – not specific
- 39 *the case of* – specific and followed by *of*
- 40 *an Australian owl* – first mention of a singular countable noun; *Australian* starts with a vowel sound, so it takes *an*. In many detective novels, you will see titles such as *The case of the city clerk* (by Agatha Christie). This is a convention in detective novel titles, and draws the reader into the plot, as though they are already familiar with the case.
- 41 *a uniform* – first mention of a singular, countable noun
- 42 *the bird* – we know which bird – the owl that was mentioned previously
- 43 *an egg* – first mention of a singular, countable noun starting with a vowel sound
- 44 *a European nest* – first mention of a singular, countable noun preceded by an adjective starting with a consonant sound
- 45 *an hour* – first mention of a singular, countable noun starting with a vowel sound
- 46 *its arrival* – no need for an article because of the possessive *its*
- 47 *what a strange problem* – first mention of a singular, countable noun. This is also an exclamation, and exclamations often take *a*
- 48 *modesty* – uncountable noun
- 49 *such a fee* – expression *such a* takes *a*
- 50 *the money* – *money* is associated with *fee*, so we know which money and it becomes definite

- 51 *the poor* – an adjective used as a noun
52 *the Grammar Survival Fund* – names of organisations usually take *the*
53 *the detective* – a representative of a class
54 *their skills* – no need for an article because of the possessive *their*
55 *the common good* – an adjective used as a noun

Articles Exercise 3

Please complete the following exercise using *a/an/the/0* (no article) in the underlined spaces where appropriate. (Some articles have been included for you, but others are missing.) Change capital letters to lower case letters at the beginning of a sentence if necessary.

There has never been (1) ___ more exciting time to produce (2) ___ new dictionary. Everything is changing and expanding: the English language itself, the technology that helps us to describe it, and (3) ___ needs and goals of those learning and teaching (4) ___ English. (5) ___ 1980s saw the development of (6) ___ first large corpora (special collections) of English text.

(7) ___ Another of the *Macmillan English Dictionary's* innovations is that two similar but separate editions have been created from (8) ___ same database: one for learners whose main target variety is (9) ___ American English, (10) ___ other for learners of British English. The differences are small but significant.

The *Macmillan English Dictionary* is the product of good linguistic data and high-quality people. It has been (11) ___ privilege to work with such (12) ___ talented and creative team, and I would like to thank (13) ___ team for producing such (14) ___ excellent book. I hope you enjoy (15) ___ results of our hard work and find the dictionary (16) ___ pleasure to use.

(adapted from Rundell, M 2002, 'Introduction', *Macmillan English dictionary for advanced learners*, Macmillan Education, Oxford, p. x.)

Answers to Articles Exercise 3

There has never been (1) **a** more exciting time to produce (2) **a** new dictionary. Everything is changing and expanding: the English language itself, the technology that helps us to describe it, and (3) **the** needs and goals of those learning and teaching (4) **0** English. (5) **The** 1980s saw the development of (6) **the** first large corpora (special collections) of English text.

(7) **0** Another of the *Macmillan English Dictionary's* innovations is that two similar but separate editions have been created from (8) **the** same database: one for learners whose main target variety is (9) **0** American English, (10) **the** other for learners of British English. The differences are small but significant.

The *Macmillan English Dictionary* is the product of good linguistic data and high-quality people. It has been (11) **a** unique privilege to work with such (12) **a** talented and creative team, and I would like to thank (13) **the** team for producing such (14) **an** excellent book. I hope you enjoy (15) **the** results of our hard work and find the dictionary (16) **a** pleasure to use.

(adapted from Rundell, M 2002, 'Introduction', *Macmillan English dictionary for advanced learners*, Macmillan Education, Oxford, p. x.)

- (1) **a** *time* – Singular countable noun; first mention; not specific
- (2) **a** *dictionary* – Singular countable noun; first mention; not specific
- (3) **the** *needs and goals* – Plural, countable nouns; followed by *of* and therefore specific, as we know whose needs and goals the writer is referring to. We do not need to repeat *the* for *goals*
- (4) **0** *English* – Uncountable noun used generally, so no article
- (5) **the** *1980s* – Decade
- (6) **the** *first* – Ordinal
- (7) **0** *Another* – No need for an article, as it is included in *another*
- (8) **the** *same database* – Unique adjective *same*
- (9) **0** *American English* – Uncountable noun used generally, so no article
- (10) **the** *other* – We know this is the second of two databases, so it is specific - *the other*
- (11) **a** *unique privilege* – Singular countable noun; first mention; not specific; adjective starts with a consonant sound
- (12) **a** *team* – Singular countable noun; first mention; word pattern *such a*
- (13) **the** *team* – Singular countable noun; specific, as we know which team (it has just been mentioned)
- (14) **an** *excellent book* – Singular countable noun; first mention; word pattern *such a* followed by a vowel sound in the adjective
- (15) **the** *results* – Plural countable noun; specific, as we know which results: *the results of our hard work*
- (16) **a** *pleasure* – Singular countable noun; first mention

More Detailed Answers to Articles Exercise 3

There has never been (1) **a** more exciting time to produce (2) **a** new dictionary. Everything is changing and expanding: (a) the English language itself, (b) the technology that helps us to describe it, and (3) **the** needs and goals of those learning and teaching (4) **0** English. (5) **The** 1980s saw (c) the development of (6) **the** first large corpora (special collections) of English (d) text.

(7) **0** Another of (e) the *Macmillan English Dictionary's* innovations is that (f) two similar but separate editions have been created from (8) **the** same database: one for (g) learners whose main target variety is (9) **0** American English, (10) **the** other for learners of (h) British English. (i) The differences are small but significant.

(j) The *Macmillan English Dictionary* is (k) the product of good linguistic (l) data and high-quality (m) people. It has been (11) **a** unique privilege to work with such (12) **a** talented and creative team, and I would like to thank (13) **the** team for producing such (14) **an** excellent book. I hope you enjoy (15) **the** results of (n) our hard work and find (o) the dictionary (16) **a** pleasure to use.

(adapted from Rundell, M 2002, 'Introduction', *Macmillan English dictionary for advanced learners*, Macmillan Education, Oxford, p. x.)

Detailed Answers

- (1) **a** *time* – Singular countable noun; first mention; not specific
- (2) **a** *dictionary* – Singular countable noun; first mention; not specific
- (a) **the** *English language* – Singular countable noun; we know which language – English – so it is specific
- (b) **the** *technology* – Uncountable noun; we know which technology is being referred to – *the technology that helps us to describe it* – and a relative clause is used, so it is specific
- (3) **the** *needs and goals* – Plural countable nouns; followed by *of* and therefore specific, as we know whose needs and goals the writer is referring to. We do not need to repeat *the* for *goals*
- (4) **0** *English* – Uncountable noun used generally, so no article
- (5) **the** *1980s* – Decade
- (c) **the** *development* – Uncountable noun; we know which development is referred to – *the development of the first large corpora* – so it is specific
- (6) **the** *first* – Ordinal
- (d) **0** *text* – Uncountable noun; English text in general
- (7) **0** *Another* – No need for an article, as it is included in *another*
- (e) **the** *Macmillan English Dictionary* – Singular countable noun; a specific dictionary with a name
- (f) **two** *editions* – Plural countable noun; a number is given, so no article is necessary. This is the first time these editions are introduced to us, so they are not specific. If the author referred to them again, he could say 'The two editions I mentioned earlier'.
- (8) **the** *same database* – Unique adjective *same*
- (g) **0** *learners* - Plural countable noun; not specific – we do not know anything about these learners generally except that they want to learn American English
- (9) **0** *American English* – Uncountable noun used generally, so no article
- (10) **the** *other* – We know this is the second of two databases, so it is specific – *the other*
- (h) **0** *British English* – Uncountable noun used generally

- (i) **the** *differences* – Plural countable noun; we know which differences – the differences between the two varieties of English
- (j) **the** *Macmillan English Dictionary* – Singular countable noun; a specific dictionary with a name
- (k) **the** *product* – Singular countable noun followed by ‘of’; you could say ‘a product’, but that would sound as though it is just one of many, whereas the writer wants to stress this particular product
- (l) **0** *data* – Plural countable noun; general, not specific
- (m) **0** *people* – Plural form of *person*; general, not specific
- (11) **a** *unique privilege* – Singular countable noun; first mention; not specific; adjective starts with a consonant sound
- (12) **a** *team* – Singular countable noun; first mention; word pattern *such a*
- (13) **the** *team* – Singular countable noun; specific, as we know which team (it has just been mentioned)
- (14) **an** *excellent book* – Singular countable noun; first mention; word pattern *such a* followed by a vowel sound in the adjective
- (15) **the** *results* – Plural countable noun; specific, as we know which results: *the results of our hard work*
- (n) **0** *our hard work* – Uncountable noun preceded by *our* (a possessive adjective/possessive determiner)
- (o) **the** *dictionary* – Singular countable noun; definite because we know which dictionary the writer is referring to
- (16) **a** *pleasure* – Singular countable noun; first mention

Articles Exercise 4

Can you add articles (*a/an/the*) where necessary in the following text? (Some articles have been included for you, but others are missing.)

The Harvard referencing system has two essential components: brief in-text references throughout your assignment and a comprehensive list of references at end of your assignment.

The in-text reference should give date that the work you are referring to was published, the family name of the author and, in the case of quotations, page where the quotation was found. It is easy system, once you understand it.

(adapted from Hay, I, Bochner, D & Dungey, C 1997, *Making the grade*, Oxford University Press Australia, Sydney, p. 155)

Answers to Articles Exercise 4

- (1) **the** Singular countable noun; followed by *of* and therefore specific, as we know what the writer is referring to
- (2) **the** Singular countable noun; specific, as there is only one publication date
- (3) **the** Singular countable noun; specific, as it refers to a particular page: *the page where the information can be found*
- (4) **an** Singular countable noun; first mention; one of many systems, so not specific; begins with a vowel sound

More Detailed Answers to Articles Exercise 4

The comments on the underlined articles below have been added for extra information.

(a) The Harvard referencing system has two essential (b) components: brief in-text (c) references throughout your (d) assignment and (e) a comprehensive list of (f) references at (1) **the** end of your (g) assignment. (h) The in-text reference should give (2) **the** date that (i) the work you are referring to was published, (j) the family name of (k) the author and, in (l) the case of (m) quotations, (3) **the** page where (n) the quotation was found. It is (4) **an** easy system, once you understand it.

(adapted from Hay, I, Bochner, D & Dungey, C 1997, *Making the grade*, Oxford University Press Australia, Sydney, p. 155)

- (a) **the** Singular countable noun; we know which referencing system, so it takes *the*
- (b) **0** Plural countable noun preceded by the number *two*, so there is no need for an article
- (c) **0** Plural countable noun; not specific because we are talking about references generally in the assignment. However, you could also say *the brief in-text references* because we know they are the ones used in your assignment, so they are specific. Both these options are correct.
- (d) **0** Singular countable noun preceded by the possessive *your*
- (e) **a** First mention of a singular countable noun
- (f) **0** Plural countable noun, not specific. However, you could also say *the references* because we know which references we are talking about – the ones in your assignment.
- (1) **the** Singular countable noun; followed by *of* and therefore specific, as we know what the writer is referring to
- (g) **0** Singular countable noun preceded by the possessive *your*
- (h) **the** Singular countable noun; specific because we have mentioned the idea of an in-text reference before
- (2) **the** Singular countable noun; specific, as there is only one publication date
- (i) **the** Singular countable noun; specific because it is part of a relative clause – *the work you are referring to*
- (j) **the** Singular countable noun; specific because the noun is followed by *of* and we know which name we are talking about
- (k) **the** Singular countable noun; specific because we know which author – the one in the reference

- (l) **the** Singular countable noun; specific because the noun is followed by *of* and we know which case we are talking about – *the case of quotations*
- (m) **o** Plural countable noun; not specific – any quotations
- (3) **the** Singular countable noun; specific, as it refers to a particular page: *the page where the information can be found*
- (n) **the** Singular countable noun; specific because we know which quotation is being referred to – the one in your text
- (4) **an** Singular countable noun; first mention; one of many systems, so not specific; begins with a vowel sound

Articles Exercise 5

Can you add articles (*a/an/the*) where necessary in the following text?

N.B. This exercise is very difficult and caused a lot of discussion among speakers of English as a first language. Different choices of article are possible in several cases, depending on how the noun is interpreted. Note that 'mercenary' can be both a noun and an adjective, and 'reward' can be either a countable or an uncountable noun.

There are different kinds of reward. There is reward which has no natural connexion with things you do to earn it, and is quite foreign to desires that ought to accompany those things. Money is not natural reward of love; that is why we call man mercenary if he marries woman for sake of her money. But marriage is proper reward for real lover, and he is not mercenary for desiring it. General who fights well in order to get a peerage is mercenary; general who fights for victory is not, victory being proper reward of battle as marriage is proper reward of love.

(Lewis, CS 1949, *Transposition and other addresses*, Geoffrey Bles, London, p. 22)

Answers to Articles Exercise 5

The author's original article usage is given in bold font, with alternatives in brackets.

There are different kinds of reward. There is (1) **the** reward which has no natural connexion with (2) **the (0)** things you do to earn it, and is quite foreign to (3) **the (0)** desires that ought to accompany those things. Money is not (4) **the** natural reward of love; that is why we call (5) **a** man mercenary if he marries (6) **a** woman for (7) **the** sake of her money. But marriage is (8) **the (a)** proper reward for (9) **a (the)** real lover, and he is not mercenary for desiring it. (10) **A (the)** general who fights well in order to get a peerage is (11) **(a)** mercenary; (12) **a (the)** general who fights for victory is not, victory being (13) **the** proper reward of battle as marriage is (14) **the** proper reward of love.

- (1) **the** *reward* - Singular countable noun followed by a relative clause
- (2) **the (0)** *things* - Plural countable noun followed by a relative clause
- (3) **the (0)** *desires* - Plural countable noun followed by a relative clause
- (4) **the** *reward* – Singular countable noun followed by 'of'
- (5) **a** *man* – Singular countable noun, first mention, referring to any man
- (6) **a** *woman* – Singular countable noun, first mention, referring to any woman
- (7) **the** *sake* – Singular countable noun followed by 'of'
- (8) **the** *reward* – Singular countable noun; the only proper reward
a *reward* – Singular countable noun; one of many possible rewards
- (9) **a** *lover* – Singular countable noun, first mention
the *lover* – Singular countable noun; representative of a class of people who love
- (10) **a** *general* – Singular countable noun; first mention; any general
the *general* – Singular countable noun; defined by a relative clause
- (11) **0** *mercenary* – Adjective
a *mercenary* – Singular countable noun; first mention
- (12) **a** *general* – Singular countable noun; any general
the *general* – Singular countable noun; defined by a relative clause
- (13) **the** *reward* – Singular countable noun; the only proper reward
- (14) **the** *reward* – Singular countable noun; the only proper reward