

English Articles – B1 Intermediate

Worksheet: Proper Nouns, Fixed Phrases, Exceptions and More

Quick Reference Guide

Rule	THE	No Article
Rivers / oceans / deserts / ranges	the Nile, the Alps, the Sahara	—
Most countries / cities / continents	the UK, the USA, the Philippines	France, Tokyo, Europe
Institutions – purpose vs building	the school (building)	go to school (as student)
Exclamations (What / Such)	—	What a day! Such an effort!
Fixed daily/travel phrases	—	by car, at home, have lunch
Groups of people	the elderly, the poor, the rich	—

Exercise 1: True or False?

Read each sentence. Write **True** or **False**.

1. We say "the Sahara Desert" because deserts use THE. _____
2. "She goes to the school every day" means she is a student there. _____
3. We say "the United Kingdom" because it contains the word "united". _____
4. "What a wonderful evening!" is correct. _____
5. "The poor" refers to poor people in general. It is correct to use THE here. _____
6. "I travel to work by the car" is correct. _____
7. We do not use THE before the names of most individual countries. For example: "I visited France last year." _____
8. "He is in the hospital" always means he is a patient receiving treatment. _____

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice

Choose: a / an / the / — (no article).

1. My grandmother is in ____ hospital. She had an operation yesterday.
(a / an / the / —)
2. ____ Amazon is the largest river in the world by volume.
(a / an / the / —)
3. What ____ incredible performance! Everyone was on their feet.
(a / an / the / —)
4. The government should do more to support ____ homeless.
(a / an / the / —)
5. She usually has ____ lunch at her desk.
(a / an / the / —)
6. He crossed ____ Alps on a motorbike last summer.
(a / an / the / —)
7. I went to ____ prison to interview one of the inmates for my research.
(a / an / the / —)

8. Such ____ kind thing to say! I really appreciate it.

(a / an / the / —)

Exercise 3: Matching

Match each sentence (1–8) to the correct rule (A–H).

1. She came to school to collect her daughter. ____
2. He was sent to prison for five years. ____
3. The Nile flows through Egypt. ____
4. What an amazing view from up here! ____
5. The young need better job opportunities. ____
6. I usually go to work by train. ____
7. We live near the Himalayas. ____
8. Such a difficult decision to make! ____

Rules:

A – THE: specific building (not as a student)

B – No article: institution used for its purpose (as prisoner)

C – THE: rivers always use THE

D – A/AN: exclamation with What + singular noun

E – THE + adjective: referring to a group of people

F – No article: fixed phrase (transport / routine)

G – THE: mountain ranges use THE

H – A/AN: exclamation with Such + singular noun

Exercise 4: Gap Fill

Fill each gap with a / an / the / — (no article).

1. My brother swam across ____ English Channel last year.
2. She usually goes to ____ bed at around ten o'clock.
3. What ____ brilliant idea! Let's do it.
4. The charity works to improve conditions for ____ elderly in rural areas.
5. He lived in ____ Japan for three years.
6. She went to ____ library to return her books.
7. They travelled across ____ Sahara by camel.
8. I usually have ____ breakfast before I leave the house.

Exercise 5: Word Order

Put the words in the correct order.

1. elderly / The / more / need / support

2. by / I / go / foot / to / work

3. an / What / view / incredible

4. the / She / to / went / hospital / as / a / visitor

5. flows / through / The / Danube / Europe

6. Such / kind / a / gesture

Exercise 6: Word Sort

Write each phrase in the correct column.

Nile | by car | What ___ idea! | unemployed people | in hospital (as patient) | Pacific Ocean | have dinner
| Such ___ surprise! | Andes

THE	A / AN	No Article

Exercise 7: Complete the Conversation

Fill each gap with a / an / the / — (no article).

Lena: I just got back from ___ Indonesia! It was amazing.

Tom: Wow! Did you go to ___ Bali?

Lena: Yes, and I also visited ___ Jakarta. Such ___ fascinating city!

Tom: Did you swim in ___ ocean?

Lena: Every day! And I came home by ___ plane — a long journey.

Exercise 8: Mixed Practice

Answer each question carefully.

1. We say "___ Philippines" because it is a group of islands. (A / AN / The / —)
2. "She is in hospital" means she is a patient. (True / False)
3. ___ rich often have advantages that others do not. (A / AN / The / —)
4. "What a terrible weather!" is correct. (True / False)
5. I prefer travelling by ___ train to driving. (a / an / the / —)
6. "The Mount Everest is the tallest mountain." — Is this correct? (True / False)
7. The children go to ___ church every Sunday. (they are worshippers) (a / an / the / —)
8. Such ___ emotional speech! Everyone was moved. (a / an / the / —)

TEACHER ANSWER KEY — DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

Exercise 1: True or False — Answers

1. **True** — Deserts use THE: the Sahara, the Gobi, the Mojave.
2. **False** — "Goes to the school" = visiting the building. "Goes to school" = she is a student.
3. **True** — Countries with united/kingdom/republic → THE.
4. **True** — What + a/an + singular countable noun: What a wonderful evening!
5. **True** — THE + adjective = group: the poor, the rich, the elderly.
6. **False** — Fixed transport phrase → no article: by car, by train, on foot.
7. **True** — Most countries use no article: France, Japan, Brazil.
8. **False** — "In the hospital" = visitor (British English). "In hospital" = patient.

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice — Answers

1. — **(no article)** — She is a patient (purpose) → no article: in hospital.
2. **the** — Rivers use THE: the Amazon.
3. **an** — "incredible" starts with a vowel → What AN incredible performance!
4. **the** — THE + adjective = group: the homeless.
5. — **(no article)** — Fixed phrase: have lunch, have breakfast — no article.
6. **the** — Mountain ranges use THE: the Alps.
7. **the** — Visiting the building → THE prison.
8. **a** — "kind" starts with a consonant → Such A kind thing!

Exercise 3: Matching — Answers

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. E
6. F
7. G
8. H

Exercise 4: Gap Fill — Answers

1. **the** — Seas and channels use THE: the English Channel.
2. — **(no article)** — Fixed phrase: go to bed — no article.
3. **a** — "brilliant" → consonant sound → What A brilliant idea!
4. **the** — THE + adjective = group: the elderly.
5. — **(no article)** — Most countries → no article: Japan.
6. **the** — Specific building (she is returning books, not studying) → THE library.
7. **the** — Deserts use THE: the Sahara.
8. — **(no article)** — Fixed phrase: have breakfast — no article.

Exercise 5: Word Order — Answers

1. The elderly need more support.
2. I go to work by foot.
3. What an incredible view!
4. She went to the hospital as a visitor.
5. The Danube flows through Europe.
6. Such a kind gesture!

Exercise 6: Word Sort — Answers

THE: Nile, unemployed people, Pacific Ocean, Andes

A / AN: What an idea!, Such a surprise!

No Article: by car, in hospital (as patient), have dinner

Exercise 7: Conversation — Answers

Lena: I just got back from [—] Indonesia! It was amazing.

Tom: Wow! Did you go to [—] Bali?

Lena: Yes, and I also visited [—] Jakarta. Such [a] fascinating city!

Tom: Did you swim in [the] ocean?

Lena: Every day! And I came home by [—] plane — a long journey.

Exercise 8: Mixed Practice — Answers

1. **The** — Groups of islands use THE: the Philippines, the Maldives.
2. **True** — No article = purpose. She is there as a patient.
3. **The** — THE + adjective = group: the rich.
4. **False** — "Weather" is uncountable → no article: What terrible weather!
5. — **(no article)** — Fixed transport phrase: by train — no article.
6. **False** — Individual mountains → no article: Mount Everest.
7. — **(no article)** — Purpose use (worshippers) → no article: go to church.
8. **an** — "emotional" starts with a vowel → Such AN emotional speech!