Name (in Romaji):	→
Student Number:	→
Class Day + Period (examples: Monday 2, Friday 3):	→

ARTICLES
(*A*, *An*, and *The*)

An *article* is used to identify a noun.

A or *an* is used before a singular noun that is not special or is just one of many.   It can be used to answer, "What is it?" or "Who is it?"

· **a cat**   · **a book**   · **a student**   · **a television show**

Use *a* or *an* when there is a descriptive adjective.

· **a black cat**   · **a good book**   · **a new student**   · **a funny television show**

The is used to indicate a specific singular, plural, or non-count noun. It can be used to answer, "What (noun)?" or "Which one(s)?"

· **the bag**   · **the bags**   · **the luggage**

The is used when talking about <u>specific places</u>.
· I will study in the library after class.
· Will you go to the store for me, please?

The is also used with <u>musical instruments</u>.
· She can play the guitar very well.
· Mozart like including the oboe in his operas.

Take special care when using articles with place names.
   Use *the* with the following:
· seas and oceans (the Atlantic Ocean)   · mountain ranges (the Himalayas)
· island groups (the Canary Islands)   · rivers (the Colorado River)
· deserts (the Gobi Desert)

Sometimes no article is needed.

    (1) With proper names: Ex: Mary, Oxford University, Family Mart

    (2) Special nouns in certain cases: Ex: at home, at school, at church, in jail, at work,

       directions (north, south, etc.), meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner), time (last night, last year)

Do not use articles with the following:

    ・continents, countries, states, counties, cities, towns, streets, lakes

SPECIAL USE CASES WITH ARTICLES:

    Uncountable nouns are sometimes used like countable nouns.

      ・We'll take three coffees over here, please.

      ・I need a shampoo that's gentle.

Other general rules for using articles:

1. Don't use articles when talking about things in general.   Ex: I love cats.

          He is fascinated by airplanes.

2. Use *a* or *an* if classifying an occupation.   Ex: I am a teacher.

3. Use *the* if there is only one in existence.   Ex: Don't look directly at the sun.

4. Do not use articles when *some* or *any* are used.   Ex: A: "Do you have some pens

          I could borrow?"

         B: "No, I don't have any pens."

5. Do not use articles with possessives.   Ex: That is my dictionary.

  Examine the sentences and make sure you understand the use of articles:

    (1)   This morning I saw a cat. The cat was sleeping.

    (2)   I am eating an apple. The apple tastes delicious.

    (3)   I went to the doctor today.

    (4)   Water is necessary for life.

    (5)   The water is clean and clear.

    (6)   The waters here are too rough for swimming.

    (7)   Wait for the paint to dry.

    (8)   I spilled paint on my clothes.

    (9)   Computers are expensive.

    (10) The computers are too old to use.

Articles Practice 1 -
Write *a*, *an*, *the*, or an **X** (for no article) in the following blanks.

1. She is _____ artist.

2. We are _____ friends.

3. That is _____ book I sent you.

4. Those are not _____ flowers I sent you.

5. New York is _____ big city.

6. That is _____ interesting question.

7. That is _____ interesting information.

8. He sends me _____ email every day.

9. He is _____ big boy now.

10. He has been able to play _____ since he was two years old.

11. More _____ washing machines are sold each year than refrigerators.

Articles Practice 2 -
Choose *the* or *X* before the following proper nouns:

_____ Joann   _____ September   _____ Philippines

_____ India   _____ United States   _____ Wednesday

_____ Clarks   _____ Pacific Ocean   _____ Mrs. Martin

_____ University of Texas   _____Western Hemisphere

Articles Practice 3 -
Choose *the* or *X* to fill in the following blanks:

1. _____ student is on his way to _____ school now.

2. Peter is going to _____ jail to visit his _____ friend.

3. I didn't go to _____ work today.

4. I stayed at _____ home.

5. I always eat _____ dinner by myself.

6. She had _____ dinner at _____ restaurant _____ last night.

7. _____ last week was _____ last week of our _____ vacation.

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