

ARTICLES

A Complete Grammar Reference — Definitions, Rules, Comparisons & Practice

COMPLETE CONCEPT EXPLANATION

What is an Article?

An **article** is a type of **determiner** placed before a noun (or noun phrase) to indicate whether that noun refers to something specific, something general, or something being mentioned for the first time or already known. English has three articles: **a**, **an**, and **the**. Articles belong to the broader category of *limiting adjectives*, and their correct use is one of the subtlest yet most consequential aspects of English grammar.

Classification of Articles

Category	Article(s)	Also Called	Core Function
Indefinite Article	a / an	Non-specific determiner	Refers to any one member of a general class; introduces new information
Definite Article	the	Specific determiner	Refers to a particular noun already known or uniquely identifiable to speaker and listener
Zero Article (∅)	(none)	Null article	Used when no article is required — with proper nouns, abstract nouns used generically, etc.

A vs. An — Phonetic Rule

The choice between **a** and **an** depends entirely on the **initial sound** (not the initial letter) of the following word. Use **an** before vowel sounds; use **a** before consonant sounds.

RULE 1	Use 'an' before words beginning with a VOWEL SOUND (a, e, i, o, u sounds), regardless of spelling. Use 'a' before words beginning with a CONSONANT SOUND.
Ex. 1	an apple, an elephant, an hour (h is silent → vowel sound), an honest man, an MBA (em-bee-ay → 'em' is a vowel sound)
Ex. 2	a university (yoo-niversiti → 'y' consonant sound), a European nation, a one-way street ('w' consonant sound), a historical (h is sounded)
Ex. 3	a useful tool, a union leader, a eulogy — all begin with a 'y' consonant sound despite starting with vowel letters

The Silent-H Trap & Abbreviations

Word	Sound	Correct Article	Incorrect Form
hour	Silent H → /aʊər/	an hour	X a hour
honest	Silent H → /'ɒnɪst/	an honest	X a honest
heir	Silent H → /ɛər/	an heir	X a heir
historical	Sounded H → /hɪ'stɔːrɪkəl/	a historical	an historical (archaic only)
hotel	Sounded H → /həʊ'tel/	a hotel	X an hotel
MBA	Read as letters: /ɛm/	an MBA	X a MBA
FAQ	Read as letters: /ɛf/	an FAQ	X a FAQ

Word	Sound	Correct Article	Incorrect Form
URL	Read as letters: /ju:/	a URL	X an URL

Rules for 'A / An' — Indefinite Article

RULE 2	Use 'a/an' to introduce a COUNTABLE SINGULAR noun that is being mentioned for the FIRST TIME or is non-specific. It means 'one of many'.
Ex. 1	I saw a dog in the park. (any dog — first mention, non-specific)
Ex. 2	She needs an umbrella. (any umbrella — not a specific one)
Ex. 3	He is a doctor. (one member of the profession; classification)

RULE 3	Use 'a/an' with singular countable nouns to express a CLASSIFICATION or OCCUPATION — when describing what someone or something IS.
Ex. 1	Einstein was a genius. / She became a teacher at 25.
Ex. 2	This is a mammal. / That was a masterpiece.
Ex. 3	He is an engineer, not a technician.

RULE 4	Use 'a/an' in EXCLAMATIONS with singular countable nouns after 'What' and 'Such a/an'.
Ex. 1	What a wonderful day! / What an incredible performance!
Ex. 2	Such a pity! / Such an honour to meet you!
Ex. 3	What a mess! / What an ordeal she went through!

RULE 5	Use 'a/an' to express RATES, PRICES, SPEEDS, and FREQUENCIES (= 'per').
Ex. 1	The car travels at 120 kilometres an hour.
Ex. 2	He earns sixty thousand rupees a month.
Ex. 3	Take this medicine twice a day.

RULE 6	Use 'a/an' with a PROPER NOUN used as a common noun — to indicate a type, instance, or specimen.
Ex. 1	She is a Picasso among photographers. (= someone as talented as Picasso)
Ex. 2	He bought a Rembrandt at the auction. (= a painting by Rembrandt)
Ex. 3	We need a Gandhi to lead us now. (= someone of Gandhi's calibre)

Rules for 'The' — Definite Article

RULE 7	Use 'the' when a noun has been PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED and is now known to the listener.
Ex. 1	I bought a coat and a hat. The coat was expensive.
Ex. 2	She told a story. The story was hilarious.
Ex. 3	We met a professor. The professor specialised in quantum physics.

RULE 8	Use 'the' when the noun is UNIQUELY IDENTIFIABLE — only one exists in the context, or it is identified by a qualifying clause.
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Ex. 1	The sun rises in the east. / The moon was full last night.
Ex. 2	Please close the door. (only one door in the room — mutually understood)
Ex. 3	The man who saved my life was a stranger.

RULE 9	Use 'the' with SUPERLATIVES, ORDINAL NUMBERS, and COMPARATIVE STRUCTURES using 'the...the'.
Ex. 1	She is the tallest girl in the class. / He won the first prize.
Ex. 2	The more you practise, the better you become.
Ex. 3	This is the most challenging task I have faced.

RULE 10	Use 'the' with GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES — rivers, mountain ranges, oceans, seas, groups of islands, deserts, canals, and countries with plural or common-noun components.
Ex. 1	the Nile, the Himalayas, the Pacific Ocean, the Sahara Desert, the Maldives
Ex. 2	the United States, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands
Ex. 3	the Suez Canal, the Bay of Bengal, the English Channel

RULE 11	Use 'the' with MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (when referring to the ability to play them), HISTORICAL ERAS & DECADES, and RELIGIONS (when used as institutions).
Ex. 1	She plays the violin beautifully. / He learned the piano at age five.
Ex. 2	the Renaissance, the Middle Ages, the 1980s, the Victorian era

Ex. 3	the Church, the Mosque — as institutions; but: Christianity, Islam — religions as concepts (zero article)
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RULE 12	Use 'the' with TITLES when the title is followed by a proper noun. Do NOT use 'the' when the title IS the name.
Ex. 1	the President of India, the Pope, the Prime Minister of Canada
Ex. 2	President Biden arrived. (title used as name → no 'the') vs. The president spoke. (role, not name)
Ex. 3	Alexander the Great, William the Conqueror — 'the' is part of the epithet

RULE 13	Use 'the' with NEWSPAPERS, SHIPS, TRAINS, and AIRCRAFT named with common nouns or proper-noun structures.
Ex. 1	the Times of India, the Guardian, the New York Times
Ex. 2	the Titanic, the Queen Mary (named ships), the Orient Express
Ex. 3	the Boeing 737 (model class); but: Air India Flight 101 (no article)

Rules for Zero Article (Ø) — When to Use NO Article

RULE 14	Use NO article (zero article) before PROPER NOUNS: names of specific people, cities, countries (without common noun components), continents, languages, and individual mountains/lakes.
Ex. 1	Ø Paris, Ø India, Ø Mount Everest, Ø Lake Superior, Ø Asia, Ø English
Ex. 2	Ø Shakespeare wrote tragedies. / Ø Gandhi preached non-violence.

Ex. 3	Ø French is spoken in France. (language as subject) / He speaks Ø French fluently.
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RULE 15	Use NO article before UNCOUNTABLE (mass) NOUNS and PLURAL NOUNS when used in a GENERAL or ABSTRACT sense.
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Ex. 1	Ø Water is essential for life. / Ø Gold is precious. (general truth — uncountable)
Ex. 2	Ø Dogs are loyal animals. / Ø Children need love. (plural, generic)
Ex. 3	Ø Honesty is the best policy. / Ø Courage defines a leader. (abstract nouns)

RULE 16	Use NO article before MEALS, GAMES & SPORTS, ACADEMIC SUBJECTS, and DAYS/MONTHS/YEARS when used generally.
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Ex. 1	Ø Breakfast was late. / We had Ø dinner at eight. (but: The dinner he cooked was superb.)
Ex. 2	She plays Ø chess, Ø cricket, and Ø basketball. (sport names — zero article)
Ex. 3	He studies Ø mathematics and Ø history. / She arrived on Ø Monday in Ø June.

RULE 17	Use NO article before PLACES used for their PRIMARY PURPOSE: school, church, hospital, prison, bed, university — when someone goes/is there for that purpose.
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Ex. 1	She is in Ø hospital. (as a patient) vs. She visited the hospital. (as a visitor)
Ex. 2	He went to Ø school. (as a student) vs. The school was built in 1990. (as a building)
Ex. 3	They went to Ø church. (to worship) / He went to Ø bed early.

Special & Tricky Cases — Nuanced Rules

RULE 18	With PARTS OF THE DAY: 'the' is used when the time-of-day is modified (in the morning, in the evening), but omitted with 'at night', 'at noon', 'at midnight', 'at dawn'.
Ex. 1	in the morning / in the afternoon / in the evening — but — at night / at noon / at midnight
Ex. 2	She jogs every morning. (zero article with 'every') / He arrived in the morning.
Ex. 3	at daybreak, at sunrise — specific threshold moments; zero or 'the' with modifying adj.: in the dead of night

RULE 19	'THE' before an ADJECTIVE used as a NOUN to refer to an entire class of people; the adjective becomes a plural collective noun.
Ex. 1	The rich often underestimate the struggles of the poor.
Ex. 2	The elderly deserve our respect. / The unemployed need better support.
Ex. 3	The injured were taken to hospital. / The accused was released on bail.

RULE 20	Use 'A/AN' — NOT 'the' — when making a GENERIC STATEMENT about an entire species/class using singular countable noun. Both 'a' and 'the' work generically, but with different nuances: 'the' → the species; 'a' → any typical member.
Ex. 1	A dog is a loyal animal. (= any typical dog) / The dog is a loyal animal. (= dogs as a species)
Ex. 2	A student should study hard. (= any student) / The student must learn discipline. (= the typical student)
Ex. 3	Both are grammatically correct; context and register determine preference.

COMPARISON TABLES — A vs AN vs THE vs Ø

At a Glance: Which Article to Use?

Situation	Article	Example
First mention, singular countable, non-specific	a / an	I met a professor today.
Second mention, now known	the	The professor was brilliant.
Unique referent (only one exists)	the	The sun is a star.
Superlative	the	He is the best player.
Classification / what someone IS	a / an	She is an architect.
Generic plural	Ø (zero)	Dogs are loyal.
Generic uncountable	Ø (zero)	Water is precious.
Proper nouns (names, cities)	Ø (zero)	She lives in Paris.
Countries with common-noun part	the	He visited the USA.
Musical instruments (playing)	the	He plays the flute.
Sports / games	Ø (zero)	They play cricket.
Meals (general)	Ø (zero)	Breakfast is ready.
Rate / per	a / an	Sixty kilometres an hour
Adjective used as noun (class)	the	The poor need aid.
Ordinal numbers	the	She won the third prize.

Common Errors — Correct vs. Incorrect

Incorrect	Correct	Rule Violated
X She is a honest woman.	✓ She is an honest woman.	Rule 1: 'h' is silent; vowel sound /b/
X He plays a violin.	✓ He plays the violin.	Rule 11: musical instruments use 'the'
X The gold is precious.	✓ Gold is precious.	Rule 15: generic uncountable — zero article
X She went to the school.	✓ She went to school.	Rule 17: purpose use — zero article
X He is best student in class.	✓ He is the best student in class.	Rule 9: superlatives require 'the'
X The Mount Everest is high.	✓ Mount Everest is high.	Rule 14: individual mountains — zero article
X He is the engineer.	✓ He is an engineer.	Rule 2/3: classification uses 'a/an'
X She plays a chess.	✓ She plays chess.	Rule 16: sports — zero article
X What wonderful day!	✓ What a wonderful day!	Rule 4: exclamations need 'a/an'
X He earns 50,000 rupees in a month.	✓ He earns 50,000 rupees a month.	Rule 5: rate expressions use 'a/an'
X The English is my favourite subject.	✓ English is my favourite subject.	Rule 16: academic subjects — zero article
X The France is a beautiful country.	✓ France is a beautiful country.	Rule 14: country names (no common noun) — zero article

Memory Tricks & Mnemonics

- **SOUND not SPELLING:** Always say the word aloud. If it starts with a vowel SOUND → an. Consonant sound → a. 'An MBA' sounds right; 'a MBA' doesn't.
- **First/Second Mention:** Think of 'a/an' as INTRODUCING a stranger, and 'the' as greeting an old friend. First time you meet → a/an. Known to both → the.
- **UNIQUE = THE:** If only ONE can exist (sun, moon, earth, president of a nation), use 'the'. Test: Can there be two of it? No → use 'the'.
- **GENERAL PLURAL = Ø:** 'Dogs are loyal' talks about ALL dogs. No article needed. But 'The dogs in my colony are noisy' → specific dogs.
- **PURPOSE PLACES:** Go to school (study), in hospital (patient), at church (pray) — you're there as the intended user. Building focus adds 'the': the school building needs repair.
- **RANK + SUPERLATIVE anchor:** Any time you could rank or compare (best, first, only, same), use 'the'. She is the only doctor here.

RULES SUMMARY — QUICK REVISION REFERENCE

Rule No.	Rule Statement	Quick Example
Rule 1	A/An is chosen by SOUND, not spelling. Vowel sound → an; consonant sound → a.	an hour, a university
Rule 2	Use a/an to introduce a singular countable noun mentioned for the FIRST TIME (non-specific).	I saw a dog.
Rule 3	Use a/an to CLASSIFY or describe what someone/something IS.	She is an engineer.

Rule No.	Rule Statement	Quick Example
Rule 4	Use a/an in exclamations with 'What' and 'Such'.	What a day! Such an honour!
Rule 5	Use a/an to express RATES, SPEEDS, and FREQUENCIES.	120 km an hour; twice a day
Rule 6	Use a/an with a PROPER NOUN used as a common noun.	He is a Gandhi.
Rule 7	Use 'the' for the SECOND MENTION (already introduced, now known).	I saw a dog. The dog ran.
Rule 8	Use 'the' for UNIQUELY IDENTIFIABLE nouns.	the sun, the moon, close the door
Rule 9	Use 'the' with SUPERLATIVES, ORDINALS, and 'the...the' comparatives.	the best, the first prize
Rule 10	Use 'the' with GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES: rivers, ranges, oceans, deserts, island groups, canals, qualifying countries.	the Nile, the Himalayas, the UK
Rule 11	Use 'the' with MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, HISTORICAL ERAS, and DECADES.	the piano, the Renaissance, the 1980s
Rule 12	Use 'the' when a TITLE is followed by a proper noun; omit when the title IS the name.	the President of India; President Modi
Rule 13	Use 'the' with NEWSPAPERS, SHIPS, and named TRAINS.	the Times, the Titanic
Rule 14	Use ZERO ARTICLE with proper nouns — names, cities, countries (no common noun), continents, individual mountains/lakes.	Paris, India, Mount Everest
Rule 15	Use ZERO ARTICLE with UNCOUNTABLE and PLURAL NOUNS in a GENERIC sense.	Gold is precious. Dogs are loyal.
Rule 16	Use ZERO ARTICLE with MEALS, SPORTS, ACADEMIC SUBJECTS, DAYS, and MONTHS.	breakfast, chess, mathematics, Monday

Rule No.	Rule Statement	Quick Example
Rule 17	Use ZERO ARTICLE for PLACES used for their PRIMARY PURPOSE (hospital, school, church, prison, bed).	She is in hospital. He went to school.
Rule 18	Parts of day: 'in the morning/afternoon/evening' BUT 'at night/noon/midnight'.	at night, in the morning
Rule 19	Use 'the' + ADJECTIVE to refer to an entire CLASS of people.	the rich, the elderly, the injured
Rule 20	Both 'a' and 'the' can make GENERIC STATEMENTS with singular countable nouns, with slightly different nuances.	A lion is fierce. / The lion is fierce.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS — PART 1 (ALL 60 QUESTIONS)

Instructions: Attempt all 60 questions before consulting the answers in Part 2. Questions are numbered Q1–Q60 continuously across all four categories.

CATEGORY 1 — SPOT THE MISTAKE (Q1–Q15)

Each sentence contains one or more article errors. Identify the mistake, state the corrected version, and name the rule that applies. This category demands precise grammatical analysis, not just intuition.

- Q1.** She is a honest person who has earned a respect of everyone in her organisation.
- Q2.** The gold is considered a most precious metal in many ancient civilisations.
- Q3.** He went to the hospital to see his friend, but his friend was already discharged from a hospital.
- Q4.** What wonderful opportunity this is! He should not let a opportunity like this pass.
- Q5.** She plays a piano every evening and has won the first prize at an regional music competition.

- Q6.** The Mount Everest, which is the part of the Himalayas, is a highest peak on Earth.
- Q7.** She is the engineer who designed the bridge, but her brother wants to become the doctor.
- Q8.** He travels at the speed of 90 kilometres in an hour on his daily commute.
- Q9.** The honesty is a best policy — a principle that the children must be taught from an early age.
- Q10.** At the night, he read an historical novel set in the Victorian era, finishing it before the dawn.
- Q11.** The United States is the powerful country, and the English is its official language.
- Q12.** A accused in the case was released on a bail, but the judge set an unusual condition.
- Q13.** She studies the mathematics and the physics at an university in the Europe.
- Q14.** The lion is a most dangerous predator if cornered, far more than a hyena or the wolf.
- Q15.** They had the breakfast at 7 a.m. and then drove to the school to attend a urgent meeting.

CATEGORY 2 — FILL IN THE RIGHT WORD (Q16–Q30)

Choose the most grammatically precise option. More than one may appear correct at first glance — the question tests whether you can identify the single best answer based on context, register, and fine-grained rules.

- Q16.** She is _____ MBA graduate who now runs _____ successful enterprise.
A) a / a B) an / a C) an / an D) a / an
- Q17.** He is considered _____ Einstein of our department — his solutions are always brilliant.
A) the B) a C) an D) Ø (no article)
- Q18.** They were stuck in traffic for _____ hour and a half before they could reach _____ office.
A) a / the B) an / the C) an / an D) a / an
- Q19.** The survey revealed that _____ elderly are often overlooked in public health policies.

A) a B) an C) the D) Ø (no article)

Q20. She left for _____ hospital as soon as she heard about the accident, fearing the worst.

A) Ø (no article) B) a C) the D) an

Q21. _____ more you read, _____ better your language skills will become.

A) A / the B) The / the C) Ø / Ø D) The / a

Q22. He has been playing _____ chess since childhood, but only recently took up _____ guitar.

A) Ø / a B) Ø / the C) the / the D) a / the

Q23. It was _____ unique experience that changed his perspective on life forever.

A) an B) a C) the D) Ø (no article)

Q24. She found _____ purse on _____ street. _____ purse contained a large sum of money.

A) a / the / The B) the / a / A C) a / a / The D) a / the / A

Q25. He earns approximately forty thousand rupees _____ month and saves a third of it.

A) the B) a C) an D) Ø (no article)

Q26. The United Kingdom and _____ Netherlands are both members of _____ NATO.

A) the / Ø B) Ø / the C) the / the D) Ø / Ø

Q27. What _____ incredible achievement — completing _____ marathon in under three hours!

A) a / the B) an / a C) the / a D) an / the

Q28. He was in _____ prison for five years, but when he came out, he became _____ inspiration to many.

A) a / an B) Ø / an C) the / a D) Ø / a

Q29. She is _____ only student in the class who solved _____ problem without a hint.

A) the / the B) an / the C) a / the D) the / a

Q30. They met _____ European diplomat at the summit who spoke both _____ French and _____ German.

A) a / the / the B) an / Ø / Ø C) a / Ø / Ø D) an / the / the

CATEGORY 3 — CHOOSE THE CORRECT SENTENCE (Q31–Q45)

Only ONE sentence in each set is grammatically correct. Identify it and be prepared to explain exactly why the other three are wrong — a single article error disqualifies an option.

Q31. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- A) She has been admitted to a hospital with a high fever.
- B) She has been admitted to the hospital with a high fever.
- C) She has been admitted to hospital with the high fever.
- D) She has been admitted to hospital with a high fever.

Q32. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- A) He is best player on the team and an obvious choice for the captain.
- B) He is the best player on the team and an obvious choice for captain.
- C) He is the best player on a team and an obvious choice for the captain.
- D) He is the best player on the team and a obvious choice for captain.

Q33. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- A) The Nile is the longest river in the Africa.
- B) Nile is the longest river in Africa.

C) The Nile is the longest river in Africa.

D) The Nile is longest river in Africa.

Q34. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

A) What a beautiful the scenery we saw in the mountains!

B) What a beautiful scenery we saw in the mountains!

C) What beautiful scenery we saw in the mountains!

D) What beautiful a scenery we saw in the mountains!

Q35. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

A) She plays violin in a city orchestra.

B) She plays the violin in the city orchestra.

C) She plays the violin in a city orchestra.

D) She plays a violin in a city orchestra.

Q36. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

A) The accused was found guilty of the murder and the theft.

B) An accused was found guilty of murder and theft.

C) The accused was found guilty of murder and theft.

D) Accused was found guilty of a murder and theft.

Q37. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

A) He told me an interesting story. A story made me rethink everything.

- B) He told me the interesting story. The story made me rethink everything.
- C) He told me an interesting story. The story made me rethink everything.
- D) He told me interesting story. The story made me rethink everything.

Q38. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- A) The water is essential for the life of every living organism.
- B) Water is essential for life of every living organism.
- C) Water is essential for the life of every living organism.
- D) The water is essential for life of every living organism.

Q39. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- A) She is the European who has won an award for the bravery.
- B) She is a European who has won an award for bravery.
- C) She is an European who has won an award for bravery.
- D) She is a European who has won a award for bravery.

Q40. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- A) The rich must help poor, as inequality threatens the society.
- B) The rich must help the poor, as inequality threatens society.
- C) Rich must help the poor, as the inequality threatens society.
- D) The rich must help poor, as inequality threatens a society.

Q41. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- A) He was a first person to reach the summit without oxygen.
- B) He was first person to reach the summit without oxygen.
- C) He was the first person to reach a summit without oxygen.
- D) He was the first person to reach the summit without oxygen.

Q42. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- A) The breakfast they served at the hotel was a most lavish she had ever had.
- B) Breakfast they served at the hotel was the most lavish she had ever had.
- C) The breakfast they served at the hotel was the most lavish she had ever had.
- D) A breakfast they served at the hotel was the most lavish she had ever had.

Q43. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- A) He learned an art of negotiation from his mentor who was a diplomat.
- B) He learned the art of negotiation from his mentor who was a diplomat.
- C) He learned a art of negotiation from his mentor who was the diplomat.
- D) He learned the art of the negotiation from his mentor who was a diplomat.

Q44. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- A) She is studying the history and the economics at the University of Delhi.
- B) She is studying history and economics at a University of Delhi.
- C) She is studying history and economics at the University of Delhi.
- D) She is studying a history and economics at the University of Delhi.

Q45. Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- A) He speaks French fluently and is learning the German.
- B) He speaks the French fluently and is learning German.
- C) He speaks French fluently and is learning German.
- D) He speaks a French fluently and is learning the German.

CATEGORY 4 — ANALYSE, REWRITE & EXPLAIN (Q46–Q60)

These questions demand deep grammatical reasoning: paragraph correction, clause-level analysis, rule conflict resolution, and rewriting for accuracy. There are no options — write full, structured responses.

Q46. The following sentence is ambiguous due to article use. Rewrite it twice — once using 'a' and once using 'the' — and explain how the meaning changes: 'A doctor examined the patient in the room.'

Q47. Identify and correct ALL article errors in this passage: 'The corruption is the greatest threat to a democracy. The leaders who are elected must uphold an honesty and serve the public with a dignity. The justice delayed is the justice denied, as saying goes.'

Q48. Explain the grammatical difference between these three sentences and state when each is appropriate: (i) A dog is faithful. (ii) The dog is faithful. (iii) Dogs are faithful.

Q49. The sentence reads: 'She is best in class and will receive a gold medal at the annual ceremony.' Identify two article errors, correct them, and explain the rule for each.

Q50. Rewrite the following sentence correcting all article errors, then list each correction and the rule it follows: 'He is a only child of the family and bears an unusual sense of the responsibility for his age.'

Q51. Compare and contrast the use of 'the' in the following pairs. Explain why 'the' is present in one but absent in the other: (i) 'She went to school.' vs. 'The school she attended was founded in 1890.' (ii) 'He plays guitar.' vs. 'He plays the guitar beautifully.'

Q52. Analyse the article errors in this paragraph and rewrite it correctly: 'The Amazon is the longest river in a world. It flows through the South America, specifically through the Brazil and a Colombia. The biodiversity of the region is unparalleled.'

Q53. A student writes: 'He is an European and speaks an English and the French.' Identify all three errors, correct them, and provide a detailed explanation for each correction.

Q54. Explain why the same word 'church' takes different articles in these sentences and identify the grammatical principle at work: (i) 'She went to church every Sunday.' (ii) 'The church was built in the 15th century.' (iii) 'She visited a church in Rome.'

Q55. Consider: 'More you practise, better you become.' This sentence is structurally flawed in more ways than one. Rewrite it correctly and provide a full grammatical analysis of every change you made.

Q56. The following four sentences use 'a/an' or 'the' with a proper noun. Analyse each, state whether the use is correct, and explain: (i) He is the Hitler of modern politics. (ii) She bought a Picasso. (iii) The Gandhi I admire most was born in Porbandar. (iv) He is a Lincoln when it comes to public speaking.

Q57. Identify the article error(s) in the following and explain why the correction matters for meaning: 'She is a unique candidate for the position — there is simply no other like her in the entire country.'

Q58. Distinguish between these pairs of sentences. Both may seem correct, but one in each pair has a subtle error. Identify and justify: (i) 'He is a best student in the class.' vs. 'He is the best student in the class.' (ii) 'The iron is a useful metal.' vs. 'Iron is a useful metal.'

Q59. Critically analyse this sentence and explain the layered grammatical reasoning behind every article decision: 'The President of the United States delivered an address to the United Nations General Assembly on the importance of nuclear disarmament.'

Q60. Write a short paragraph (5–6 sentences) on 'The Role of Technology in Education' that deliberately demonstrates the correct use of all three articles (a, an, the) and the zero article in at least two instances each. After the paragraph, annotate each article use with the rule it exemplifies.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS — PART 2: ALL 60 ANSWERS WITH EXPLANATIONS

Each answer provides full reasoning. For MCQs, every option is explained.

CATEGORY 1 — SPOT THE MISTAKE: Answers (Q1–Q15)

Q1. *"She is a honest person who has earned a respect of everyone..."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'a honest' → should be 'an honest'. The word 'honest' begins with a silent H; the word sounds like /'ɒnɪst/, which is a vowel sound. Rule 1 states that 'an' must precede vowel sounds.

Ans: ERROR 2: 'a respect' → should be 'the respect'. 'Respect' here is not being used generically — it refers to the specific respect earned from a specific group (everyone in her organisation). Rule 8: uniquely identifiable referent.

Ans: CORRECTED: She is an honest person who has earned the respect of everyone in her organisation.

Q2. *"The gold is considered a most precious metal..."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'The gold' → should be 'Gold'. Gold is an uncountable material noun used in a generic, universal sense (gold as a substance). Rule 15: uncountable nouns in a general sense take the zero article.

Ans: ERROR 2: 'a most precious' → should be 'the most precious'. Superlatives require the definite article 'the'. Rule 9.

Ans: CORRECTED: Gold is considered the most precious metal in many ancient civilisations.

Q3. *"He went to the hospital to see his friend, but his friend was already discharged from a hospital."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'the hospital' (first use) → should be 'the hospital' — this is CORRECT if a specific known hospital is referred to. However, since no specific hospital has been introduced, 'hospital' here means a building visited as an outsider. Accept either reading, but the key error is elsewhere.

Ans: ERROR 2: 'from a hospital' → should be 'from hospital'. 'Discharged from hospital' uses the zero article because the friend was in hospital as a patient (primary purpose use). Rule 17.

Ans: CORRECTED: He went to the hospital to see his friend, but his friend was already discharged from hospital.

Q4. *"What wonderful opportunity this is! He should not let a opportunity like this pass."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'What wonderful opportunity' → should be 'What a wonderful opportunity'. Exclamatory sentences beginning with 'What' + singular countable noun require 'a/an'. Rule 4.

Ans: ERROR 2: 'a opportunity' → should be 'an opportunity'. 'Opportunity' begins with a vowel sound /b/. Rule 1.

Ans: CORRECTED: What a wonderful opportunity this is! He should not let an opportunity like this pass.

Q5. *"She plays a piano every evening and has won the first prize at an regional music competition."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'a piano' → should be 'the piano'. Musical instruments, when referring to the ability to play them, require the definite article 'the'. Rule 11.

Ans: ERROR 2: 'an regional' → should be 'a regional'. 'Regional' begins with /r/, a consonant sound. Rule 1.

Ans: CORRECTED: She plays the piano every evening and has won the first prize at a regional music competition.

Q6. *"The Mount Everest, which is the part of the Himalayas, is a highest peak on Earth."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'The Mount Everest' → should be 'Mount Everest'. Individual mountains use the zero article. Rule 14.

Ans: ERROR 2: 'the part' → should be 'a part'. 'Part' is not uniquely identifiable here; Everest is one part of the Himalayas.

Ans: ERROR 3: 'a highest peak' → should be 'the highest peak'. Superlative adjectives require 'the'. Rule 9.

Ans: CORRECTED: Mount Everest, which is a part of the Himalayas, is the highest peak on Earth.

Q7. *"She is the engineer who designed the bridge, but her brother wants to become the doctor."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'She is the engineer who designed the bridge' — 'the engineer' here is correct IF it refers to a specific known engineer. This usage is acceptable in context.

Ans: ERROR 2: 'become the doctor' → should be 'become a doctor'. When classifying someone's profession/role for the first time (not a specific individual), use 'a/an'. Rule 3.

Ans: CORRECTED: She is the engineer who designed the bridge, but her brother wants to become a doctor.

Q8. *"He travels at the speed of 90 kilometres in an hour..."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'in an hour' → should be 'an hour' (without 'in'). Rate expressions use 'a/an' directly: 'kilometres an hour', 'rupees a month'. The preposition 'in' is incorrect here. Rule 5.

Ans: NOTE: 'the speed of' is correct — 'speed' here is uniquely modified by '90 kilometres', making it specific.

Ans: CORRECTED: He travels at the speed of 90 kilometres an hour on his daily commute.

Q9. *"The honesty is a best policy..."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'The honesty' → should be 'Honesty'. Abstract nouns used in a general sense take the zero article. Rule 15.

Ans: ERROR 2: 'a best policy' → should be 'the best policy'. Superlatives require 'the'. Rule 9.

Ans: CORRECTED: Honesty is the best policy — a principle that children must be taught from an early age. (Note: 'the children' → 'children' since it refers to children in general.)

Q10. *"At the night, he read an historical novel..."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'At the night' → should be 'At night'. The fixed expression is 'at night' (zero article). Compare: 'in the morning/evening' (article used) vs. 'at night/noon/midnight' (zero article). Rule 18.

Ans: ERROR 2: 'an historical novel' → should be 'a historical novel'. In modern standard English, 'historical' begins with a sounded /h/. Rule 1. (Note: 'an historical' is found in older or formal British usage, but modern standard prefers 'a historical'.)

Ans: CORRECTED: At night, he read a historical novel set in the Victorian era, finishing it before dawn.

Q11. *"The United States is the powerful country, and the English is its official language."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'the powerful country' → should be 'a powerful country'. 'Powerful' does not uniquely identify — 'the United States' is one of many powerful countries. Use 'a' for classification. Rule 3.

Ans: ERROR 2: 'the English' → should be 'English'. Languages used as subjects or in a general reference take the zero article. Rule 16.

Ans: CORRECTED: The United States is a powerful country, and English is its official language.

Q12. *"A accused in the case was released on a bail..."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'A accused' → should be 'The accused'. 'Accused' here refers to a specific known person in the case — already identified in legal context. Rule 8. Also, 'an' would be phonetically correct if indefinite, but 'the' is semantically correct.

Ans: ERROR 2: 'a bail' → should be 'bail'. 'Bail' is an uncountable noun in legal usage; it is not preceded by an article. Rule 15.

Ans: CORRECTED: The accused in the case was released on bail, but the judge set an unusual condition.

Q13. *"She studies the mathematics and the physics at an university in the Europe."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'the mathematics' and 'the physics' → both should be zero article. Academic subjects take no article in a general sense. Rule 16.

Ans: ERROR 2: 'an university' → should be 'a university'. 'University' begins with /j/ (yoo-), a consonant sound. Rule 1.

Ans: ERROR 3: 'the Europe' → should be 'Europe'. Continents take the zero article. Rule 14.

Ans: CORRECTED: She studies mathematics and physics at a university in Europe.

Q14. *"The lion is a most dangerous predator if cornered..."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'a most dangerous predator' → should be 'the most dangerous predator'. Superlatives require 'the'. Rule 9.

Ans: NOTE: 'The lion' is correct for a generic statement about the species (Rule 20). 'a hyena' is correct (non-specific). 'the wolf' can be either generic or specific — in this context either is defensible.

Ans: CORRECTED: The lion is the most dangerous predator if cornered, far more than a hyena or a wolf.

Q15. *"They had the breakfast at 7 a.m. and then drove to the school to attend a urgent meeting."*

Ans: ERROR 1: 'the breakfast' → should be 'breakfast'. Meals in a general sense take the zero article. Rule 16. (Exception: 'The breakfast they served was excellent' — specific, modified breakfast uses 'the'.)

Ans: ERROR 2: 'to the school' → should be 'to school'. They went to school for its primary purpose (professional/educational reason). Rule 17.

Ans: ERROR 3: 'a urgent meeting' → should be 'an urgent meeting'. 'Urgent' begins with a vowel sound /ʌ/. Rule 1.

Ans: CORRECTED: They had breakfast at 7 a.m. and then drove to school to attend an urgent meeting.

CATEGORY 2 — FILL IN THE RIGHT WORD: Answers (Q16–Q30)

Q16. Correct Answer: B) an / a

Ans: 'MBA' is read as letters: /ɛm-bi:-eɪ/. The first letter sound is 'em', a vowel sound → 'an MBA'. 'Successful enterprise' is a singular countable noun introduced non-specifically → 'a successful enterprise'. Option A: 'a MBA' is wrong (vowel sound). Option C: 'an an' — second noun doesn't start with vowel sound. Option D: 'a MBA' wrong.

Q17. Correct Answer: B) a

Ans: 'He is a Einstein' — proper noun used as a common noun to describe a type or standard. Rule 6. 'The Einstein' would imply there is only one literal Einstein being referred to. 'An Einstein' is phonetically incorrect — 'Einstein' begins with a vowel sound /aɪ/, so technically 'an' is correct phonetically. However, 'an Einstein' is the fully correct answer (vowel sound /aɪ/). CORRECTED BEST ANSWER: C) an. 'An Einstein' — because Einstein starts with vowel sound /aɪ/.

Q18. Correct Answer: B) an / the

Ans: 'Hour' has a silent H → vowel sound /aʊ/ → 'an hour'. The office is a specific, known place already understood by both parties → 'the office'. Option A: 'a hour' — wrong, silent H. Option C: 'an an' — 'office' doesn't start with a vowel sound, so 'an office' is wrong. Option D: 'an office' — wrong.

Q19. Correct Answer: C) the

Ans: 'The elderly' — adjective 'elderly' used as a noun to refer to the entire class of elderly people. Rule 19: 'the' + adjective = collective noun. Options A/B (a/an elderly) are wrong because 'elderly' here is not used as

an adjective before a noun; it IS the noun, and you cannot say 'a elderly'. Option D (zero article) would mean 'elderly' functions as an adjective without a noun, which is grammatically incomplete.

Q20. Correct Answer: C) the

Ans: She left for 'the hospital' — she is going as a visitor/outsider to a specific, known hospital where an accident victim was taken. This is NOT a primary-purpose use (she is not a patient). Rule 17 applies only when the person is there for the institution's primary purpose. As a visitor going to a specific location → 'the hospital'. Option A (zero article) would imply she herself is a patient. Option B (a hospital) is wrong — the hospital is a known, specific one.

Q21. Correct Answer: B) The / the

Ans: The 'the...the' comparative structure requires 'the' in both halves. Rule 9. Option A (A / the) breaks the first 'the'. Option C (Ø / Ø) loses both. Option D (The / a) breaks the second 'the'.

Q22. Correct Answer: B) Ø / the

Ans: 'Chess' is a sport/game — zero article. Rule 16. 'The guitar' — musical instrument in the context of playing it. Rule 11. Option A: 'a guitar' — wrong for instrument. Option C: 'the chess' — wrong, sports take zero article. Option D: 'a guitar' — wrong.

Q23. Correct Answer: B) a

Ans: 'Unique' begins with /ju:/, a consonant sound ('y' sound). Therefore 'a unique' is correct, not 'an unique'. Rule 1. Options A (an) and C/D (the/Ø) are wrong because 'the' would require the experience to already be known and specified, and zero article cannot precede a singular countable noun used non-generically.

Q24. Correct Answer: C) a / the / The

Ans: First mention of 'purse' — non-specific → 'a purse'. 'Street' is a general surface noun, but the specific street is implied → 'the street' (mutually understood context). Second mention of 'purse' — already introduced → 'The purse'. Rule 2 (first mention), Rule 8 (known referent for street), Rule 7 (second mention). Options A: 'a / the / The' is actually the same as C — this is the correct form. Check: Option A and C are identical → both correct; intended answer is this pattern.

Q25. Correct Answer: B) a

Ans: 'A month' — rate expression; 'a' means 'per'. Rule 5. 'An month' (C) is wrong — 'month' begins with consonant /m/. 'The month' (A) would mean a specific month already known. Zero article (D) would leave 'forty thousand rupees month' — ungrammatical.

Q26. Correct Answer: A) the / Ø

Ans: 'The Netherlands' — country name with a common noun component ('Netherlands' is a plural form meaning 'lowlands') → takes 'the'. Rule 10. 'NATO' is an acronym/proper noun for an organisation — zero article (like most acronyms used as names). Option B reverses them incorrectly. Option C puts 'the' before NATO — wrong. Option D omits 'the' before Netherlands — wrong.

Q27. Correct Answer: B) an / a

Ans: 'Incredible' begins with vowel sound /ɪ/ → 'an incredible achievement'. 'Marathon' begins with consonant /m/ → 'a marathon'. Rule 1. Option A: 'a incredible' — wrong. Option C: 'the incredible achievement' would mean a specific, already-known achievement. Option D: 'the marathon' — implies a specific known marathon.

Q28. Correct Answer: B) Ø / an

Ans: 'In prison' (zero article) — he was there as an inmate, serving his sentence, which is the primary purpose of prison. Rule 17. 'An inspiration' — singular countable noun, first mention, non-specific → 'an' (vowel sound /ɪ/). Rule 2. Options A and C use incorrect articles for 'prison'. Option D: 'a inspiration' — wrong (vowel sound requires 'an').

Q29. Correct Answer: A) the / the

Ans: 'The only student' — 'only' makes the noun uniquely identifiable (there can be only one such student). Rule 8/9. 'The problem' — refers to a specific problem (contextually known — the one being discussed). Rule 8. Option B: 'an only' — wrong; 'only' is an ordinal-like word requiring 'the'. Options C and D use 'a' before 'only' — incorrect.

Q30. Correct Answer: C) a / Ø / Ø

Ans: 'A European diplomat' — 'European' begins with /j/ (yoo-), a consonant sound → 'a', not 'an'. Rule 1. 'French' and 'German' are languages — zero article when used in a general/competence sense. Rule 16. Option B: 'an European' — wrong (consonant sound). Option A: 'the / Ø / Ø' — 'the European diplomat' would

imply a previously known specific diplomat. Option D: 'the French' and 'the German' — wrong for languages used in general sense.

CATEGORY 3 — CHOOSE THE CORRECT SENTENCE: Answers (Q31–Q45)

Q31. Correct Answer: D

Ans: D) 'She has been admitted to hospital with a high fever.' is correct. 'Hospital' takes the zero article because she is there as a patient — primary purpose. Rule 17. 'A high fever' — indefinite, non-specific description. Rule 2. Why others are wrong: A) 'a hospital' suggests any hospital in general (wrong context for admission). B) 'the hospital' implies she went as a visitor to a known building, not as a patient. C) 'the high fever' — 'high fever' is not previously mentioned or uniquely identifiable.

Q32. Correct Answer: B

Ans: B) 'He is the best player on the team and an obvious choice for captain.' is correct. 'The best player' — superlative requires 'the'. Rule 9. 'The team' — specific, known team. 'An obvious choice' — singular countable, first mention, begins with vowel sound. 'For captain' — zero article (role/title without 'the'). Why others are wrong: A) 'best player' without 'the' — superlative must have 'the'. C) 'a team' — the team is specific and known. D) 'a obvious' — wrong, 'obvious' begins with vowel sound /ɒ/ → 'an'.

Q33. Correct Answer: C

Ans: C) 'The Nile is the longest river in Africa.' is correct. 'The Nile' — rivers always take 'the'. Rule 10. 'The longest river' — superlative requires 'the'. Rule 9. 'Africa' — continent, zero article. Rule 14. Why others are wrong: A) 'the Africa' — continents don't take 'the'. B) 'Nile' without 'the' — rivers always require 'the'. D) 'longest river' without 'the' — superlative requires 'the'.

Q34. Correct Answer: C

Ans: C) 'What beautiful scenery we saw in the mountains!' is correct. 'Scenery' is an uncountable noun — it cannot be preceded by 'a/an'. Rule 15. Exclamatory 'What' with uncountable noun takes zero article. Why others are wrong: A) 'What a beautiful the scenery' — double article is impossible. B) 'What a beautiful scenery' — 'scenery' is uncountable; 'a' cannot precede it. D) 'What beautiful a scenery' — incorrect word order; 'a' is misplaced.

Q35. Correct Answer: C

Ans: C) 'She plays the violin in a city orchestra.' is correct. 'The violin' — musical instrument, ability to play. Rule 11. 'A city orchestra' — non-specific, first mention. Why others are wrong: A) 'plays violin' — instruments require 'the'. B) 'the city orchestra' — implies a specific, previously known orchestra; without prior context, 'a city orchestra' is more appropriate. D) 'a violin' — instruments require 'the'.

Q36. Correct Answer: C

Ans: C) 'The accused was found guilty of murder and theft.' is correct. 'The accused' — refers to a specific known person in legal proceedings. Rule 8. 'Murder and theft' — zero article with these abstract nouns when used as legal charges in a general sense. Why others are wrong: A) 'the murder and the theft' — too specific; unless referring to a previously discussed specific crime. B) 'An accused' — wrong; in legal language, the specific person on trial is 'the accused'. D) 'Accused' without any article — incorrect; 'the accused' is a set phrase.

Q37. Correct Answer: C

Ans: C) 'He told me an interesting story. The story made me rethink everything.' is correct. First mention → 'an interesting story' (Rule 2; 'interesting' begins with vowel sound). Second mention → 'The story' (Rule 7). Why others are wrong: A) 'A story made me rethink' — second mention requires 'the'. B) 'the interesting story' — first mention of a non-specific story cannot take 'the'. D) 'interesting story' without article — singular countable nouns require an article.

Q38. Correct Answer: C

Ans: C) 'Water is essential for the life of every living organism.' is correct. 'Water' — uncountable, generic → zero article. Rule 15. 'The life of every living organism' — 'life' here is specified and uniquely modified by 'of every living organism' → 'the' is correct. Why others are wrong: A) 'The water' — generic uncountable doesn't take 'the'. B) 'for life of' — 'life of' without 'the' is unnatural; the phrase 'the life of' is standard. D) 'The water is essential for life of' — double error: 'the water' wrong and 'life of' without 'the'.

Q39. Correct Answer: B

Ans: B) 'She is a European who has won an award for bravery.' is correct. 'A European' — 'European' begins with /j/ (yoo-), a consonant sound → 'a'. Rule 1. 'An award' — 'award' begins with vowel sound /ə/. Rule 1. 'Bravery' — abstract noun, general sense → zero article. Rule 15. Why others are wrong: A) 'the European' — implies she is the only European or a previously known one. C) 'an European' — consonant /j/ sound → 'a', not 'an'. D) 'a award' — vowel sound /ə/ → 'an award'.

Q40. Correct Answer: B

Ans: B) 'The rich must help the poor, as inequality threatens society.' is correct. 'The rich' and 'the poor' — adjectives used as collective nouns for an entire class. Rule 19. 'Inequality' — abstract noun, general sense → zero article. 'Society' — abstract noun, general → zero article. Rule 15. Why others are wrong: A) 'help poor' — 'poor' as collective noun requires 'the'. C) 'Rich' without 'the' — adjective used as noun requires 'the'. D) 'help poor' — same error as A; 'a society' — society in general takes zero article.

Q41. Correct Answer: D

Ans: D) 'He was the first person to reach the summit without oxygen.' is correct. 'The first person' — ordinal number requires 'the'. Rule 9. 'The summit' — specific, identified summit (Everest, implied by context). Rule 8. Why others are wrong: A) 'a first person' — ordinals don't take 'a'. B) 'first person' — ordinals require 'the'. C) 'a summit' — the summit is a specific, unique peak in this context, not just any summit.

Q42. Correct Answer: C

Ans: C) 'The breakfast they served at the hotel was the most lavish she had ever had.' is correct. 'The breakfast they served' — 'the' is correct because 'breakfast' is specifically modified by 'they served at the hotel'. Rule 8. 'The most lavish' — superlative. Rule 9. Why others are wrong: A) 'a most lavish' — superlative cannot take 'a'. B) 'Breakfast they served' — without 'the', this specific modified breakfast loses its definiteness. D) 'A breakfast they served' — specific modified noun needs 'the', not 'a'.

Q43. Correct Answer: B

Ans: B) 'He learned the art of negotiation from his mentor who was a diplomat.' is correct. 'The art of negotiation' — 'art' here is uniquely specified by 'of negotiation'; only one such art → 'the'. Rule 8. 'A diplomat'

— classification, first mention → 'a'. Rule 3. Why others are wrong: A) 'an art of negotiation' — 'the art of X' is a fixed structure; 'art' is uniquely qualified. C) 'a art' — wrong phonetically; 'art' begins with vowel. Also, 'the diplomat' implies a previously known specific person. D) 'the art of the negotiation' — 'negotiation' is an abstract noun; adding 'the' before it is incorrect.

Q44. Correct Answer: C

Ans: C) 'She is studying history and economics at the University of Delhi.' is correct. 'History' and 'economics' — academic subjects, general sense → zero article. Rule 16. 'The University of Delhi' — proper institutional name with 'University of' → takes 'the'. Rule 8/13. Why others are wrong: A) 'the history and the economics' — academic subjects don't take 'the'. B) 'a University of Delhi' — 'University of Delhi' is a unique proper institution; 'a' implies one of many. D) 'a history' — academic subject takes zero article.

Q45. Correct Answer: C

Ans: C) 'He speaks French fluently and is learning German.' is correct. Both 'French' and 'German' are languages used in a general/competence sense → zero article. Rule 16. Why others are wrong: A) 'the German' — languages in general use don't take 'the'. B) 'the French' — same error. D) 'a French' — you cannot use 'a/an' before a language name.

CATEGORY 4 — ANALYSE, REWRITE & EXPLAIN: Answers (Q46–Q60)

Q46. Model Answer:

Ans: The sentence 'A doctor examined the patient in the room' has two interpretations: Version 1 using 'a doctor': "A doctor examined the patient in the room." This means: some doctor (unspecified) examined the patient who is in the room. Both uses are non-specific about the doctor; the patient is in the room. Version 2

using 'the doctor': "The doctor examined the patient in the room." This means: a specific, previously known doctor (perhaps the attending physician) examined the patient in the room. The ambiguity in the original: 'the room' — does 'in the room' modify the doctor's location or the patient's? Article change doesn't resolve this syntactic ambiguity, but it changes who the doctor is. 'A doctor' = any doctor; 'the doctor' = the specific, expected doctor.

Q47. Model Answer:

Ans: Errors in the passage: 1. 'The corruption is the greatest threat to a democracy.' → 'Corruption is the greatest threat to democracy.' - 'The corruption': abstract noun in general sense → zero article (Rule 15). - 'a democracy': democracy as a concept, general → zero article (Rule 15). - 'the greatest threat': correct — superlative (Rule 9). 2. 'The leaders who are elected' → 'Leaders who are elected': generic plural → zero article (Rule 15). OR 'The leaders who are elected' is acceptable if referring to a specific identified group. 3. 'uphold an honesty' → 'uphold honesty': honesty is abstract, uncountable → zero article (Rule 15). 4. 'serve the public with a dignity' → 'serve the public with dignity': dignity is abstract → zero article. 'The public' is correct (collective, known group). 5. 'The justice delayed is the justice denied' → 'Justice delayed is justice denied': both are abstract nouns in a proverbial, general sense → zero article (Rule 15). 6. 'as saying goes' → 'as the saying goes': 'saying' here refers to a specific, well-known proverb → 'the' (Rule 8). **CORRECTED PASSAGE:** Corruption is the greatest threat to democracy. Leaders who are elected must uphold honesty and serve the public with dignity. Justice delayed is justice denied, as the saying goes.

Q48. Model Answer:

Ans: Analysis of three generic statements: (i) "A dog is faithful." — Uses the indefinite article 'a' to make a general statement about any typical individual member of the class 'dog'. It implies: take any dog at random, and it will be faithful. Appropriate when emphasising the individual's typical qualities. This is a TYPE-level generalisation. (ii) "The dog is faithful." — Uses 'the' to refer to the dog as a SPECIES — as a collective class. This construction is more formal and scientific in register. It treats the entire species as a single conceptual entity. Common in encyclopaedic or formal writing. (iii) "Dogs are faithful." — Uses the zero article with a plural noun. This is the most natural and common way to make a generic statement in everyday English. It refers to dogs as a group without singling out any individual or treating them as a species-unit. Most common in spoken and informal written English. Conclusion: All three are grammatically correct; the distinction is register and emphasis. 'A dog' = any typical member; 'The dog' = the species as a concept; 'Dogs' = the group generally.

Q49. Model Answer:

Ans: Two article errors: ERROR 1: 'She is best in class' → should be 'She is the best in class.' RULE: Superlatives always require the definite article 'the'. 'Best' is a superlative adjective, so 'the' must precede it. Rule 9. ERROR 2: 'will receive a gold medal' — this is actually grammatically acceptable if 'gold medal' is mentioned for the first time and is non-specific. However, in competition context where there is one such medal, 'the gold medal' is more precise. This is a borderline case: if it is 'a gold medal' (one of possibly several), 'a' is correct. If 'the gold medal' (the unique top prize), 'the' is correct. In most contexts, 'the gold medal' is standard. CORRECTED: She is the best in class and will receive the gold medal at the annual ceremony.

Q50. Model Answer:

Ans: Original: 'He is a only child of the family and bears an unusual sense of the responsibility for his age.'
Error 1: 'a only child' → 'the only child'. 'Only' signals uniqueness; there can be only one such child in the family → 'the'. Rule 9 (ordinal/unique-rank words). Rule: 'only', like 'first', 'last', 'same', requires 'the'. Error 2: 'of the family' → 'of the family' is correct (specific, known family). Error 3: 'an unusual sense' → 'a unusual sense'? No — 'unusual' begins with vowel sound /ʌ/ → 'an unusual sense' is CORRECT. Error 4: 'the responsibility' → 'responsibility'. 'Responsibility' is an abstract noun used in a general sense here → zero article. Rule 15. CORRECTED: He is the only child of the family and bears an unusual sense of responsibility for his age. Corrections: (1) 'a only' → 'the only' [Rule 9/unique]; (2) 'the responsibility' → 'responsibility' [Rule 15].

Q51. Model Answer:

Ans: Comparing 'the' presence and absence: Pair 1: 'She went to school.' vs. 'The school she attended was founded in 1890.' — In the first sentence, 'school' is used without 'the' because she went as a student — the primary intended user of a school. This is the PURPOSE/INSTITUTION use. Rule 17. — In the second sentence, 'The school' takes 'the' because it is being discussed as a BUILDING or INSTITUTION with specific identifying details ('she attended', 'founded in 1890'). The focus is on the physical/historical entity, not its function. Pair 2: 'He plays guitar.' vs. 'He plays the guitar beautifully.' — 'He plays guitar' (zero article) is an AmE construction, treating guitar as an activity or general ability — similar to how one might say 'he plays sport'. This is more informal. — 'He plays the guitar beautifully' (Rule 11) is the standard BrE and formal

usage, where musical instruments used in the context of playing ability take 'the'. This is the grammatically prescribed form in formal English grammar.

Q52. Model Answer:

Ans: Original: 'The Amazon is the longest river in a world. It flows through the South America, specifically through the Brazil and a Colombia.' Error 1: 'in a world' → 'in the world'. 'World' in this superlative context is unique → 'the world'. Rule 8 + Rule 9. Error 2: 'the South America' → 'South America'. Continents take zero article. Rule 14. Error 3: 'the Brazil' → 'Brazil'. Country names without common-noun components take zero article. Rule 14. Error 4: 'a Colombia' → 'Colombia'. Same as above — country name, zero article. Rule 14. NOTE: 'The Amazon' is correct — rivers take 'the'. Rule 10. 'The biodiversity of the region' — correct: 'biodiversity' is made specific by 'of the region'; 'the region' refers back to the Amazon basin already mentioned. CORRECTED: The Amazon is the longest river in the world. It flows through South America, specifically through Brazil and Colombia. The biodiversity of the region is unparalleled.

Q53. Model Answer:

Ans: Original: 'He is an European and speaks an English and the French.' Error 1: 'an European' → 'a European'. 'European' begins with the sound /ju:/ (yoo-), which is a consonant sound. Rule 1 states that 'a' precedes consonant sounds. Therefore, 'a European' is correct. Error 2: 'an English' → 'English'. Languages used in a general competence context take the zero article. Rule 16. You cannot use 'an' before a language name. 'An English' would be colloquially used only to mean 'an English person', which is not the intent here. Error 3: 'the French' → 'French'. Same principle — languages in a general sense take zero article. Rule 16.

'The French' would correctly refer to French people (adjective used as noun, Rule 19), but in the context of 'speaks the French', it incorrectly implies the language as a definite object. CORRECTED: He is a European and speaks English and French.

Q54. Model Answer:

Ans: Analysis of 'church' in three sentences: (i) 'She went to church every Sunday.' — Zero article. She attended as a worshipper — the primary, intended purpose of a church. Rule 17: when a person uses an institution for its principal function, no article is used. This signals her role and purpose, not the building. (ii) 'The church was built in the 15th century.' — Definite article 'the'. Here, 'church' refers to a specific, identifiable BUILDING with historical attributes. The focus has shifted from purpose to the physical/historical entity. Rule 8: uniquely identifiable referent. (iii) 'She visited a church in Rome.' — Indefinite article 'a'. She visited one church among many in Rome — non-specific, not as a worshipper fulfilling religious duty, but as a tourist or visitor. Rule 2: first mention, non-specific, singular countable noun. GRAMMATICAL PRINCIPLE: The same noun can take different articles depending on whether it functions as an INSTITUTION (zero article), a SPECIFIC BUILDING (the), or a NON-SPECIFIC PHYSICAL STRUCTURE (a/an).

Q55. Model Answer:

Ans: Original flawed sentence: 'More you practise, better you become.' Two structural problems: PROBLEM 1: Missing 'the' in the comparative structure. The 'the...the' construction with comparatives is a fixed grammatical structure in English. Both 'more' and 'better' must be preceded by 'the'. PROBLEM 2: 'More you practise' is not a grammatical clause. It requires 'the more' as a determiner-adverb to modify the verb

'practise' in a correlative comparative construction. CORRECTED: The more you practise, the better you become. FULL ANALYSIS: — 'The more' functions as a degree adverb modifying the verb 'practise' in the subordinate clause. — 'The better' functions as a predicate adjective in the main clause. — The structure signals a proportional relationship: as X increases, Y increases correspondingly. — Rule 9: Superlatives and comparatives in the 'the...the' pattern always require 'the'. — Without 'the', the sentence lacks its grammatical correlative structure and is incomplete.

Q56. Model Answer:

Ans: Analysis of four sentences: (i) 'He is the Hitler of modern politics.' — 'The Hitler' here is INCORRECT for a proper-noun-as-common-noun use. When using a proper noun to mean 'a person of that type', 'a/an' is the correct article (Rule 6). 'The Hitler' would imply there is only one, known Hitler being referenced — which is factually Hitler himself, not a comparison. CORRECT FORM: 'He is a Hitler of modern politics.' However, note: some usages like 'He is the Messi of his team' (implying only one such player) use 'the' deliberately for emphasis of uniqueness. Context determines intent. (ii) 'She bought a Picasso.' — CORRECT. Proper noun 'Picasso' used as a common noun meaning 'a painting by Picasso' (one of many). Rule 6. 'A' is correct — non-specific, first mention. (iii) 'The Gandhi I admire most was born in Porbandar.' — CORRECT. 'The Gandhi' here uses 'the' to identify a specific Gandhi (the historical Mahatma Gandhi, distinguished from others who might share the name). 'The' signals: among all people named Gandhi, this specific one. (iv) 'He is a Lincoln when it comes to public speaking.' — CORRECT. Proper noun used as common noun type; 'a Lincoln' = someone of Lincoln's oratorical calibre. Rule 6.

Q57. Model Answer:

Ans: Sentence: 'She is a unique candidate for the position — there is simply no other like her in the entire country.' Analysis: Is there an article error? The article 'a' before 'unique' is CORRECT. 'Unique' begins with /ju:/, a consonant sound — so 'a unique' is right (Rule 1). This is a common test trap. However, the meaning creates a subtle contradiction: 'unique' means 'one of a kind' — there is only one such person. By the Rule 8 logic, if something is one of a kind, 'the' could be argued. But in practice, 'a unique candidate' is the standard usage because 'unique' is being used qualitatively (in the sense of 'remarkable' or 'exceptional') rather than absolutely. CONCLUSION: No grammatical error in article use. 'A unique' is correct. The rest of the sentence ('the position', 'the entire country') is also correct — both are uniquely identifiable referents. This question tests the ability to distinguish a correct but seemingly odd usage from a genuine error.

Q58. Model Answer:

Ans: Pair 1: (i) 'He is a best student in the class.' — INCORRECT. Superlatives require 'the', not 'a'. 'A best' is ungrammatical — there is logically only one 'best', which is precisely why superlatives take 'the'. Rule 9. CORRECT: 'He is the best student in the class.' (ii) 'He is the best student in the class.' — CORRECT. Rule 9. Superlative → 'the'. Pair 2: (i) 'The iron is a useful metal.' — INCORRECT. 'Iron' is an uncountable material noun used in a generic sense. It should take the zero article: 'Iron is a useful metal.' Adding 'the' before 'iron' implies a specific piece or type of iron already known to the listener. Rule 15. (ii) 'Iron is a useful metal.' — CORRECT. Generic uncountable noun → zero article. 'A useful metal' is correct — one of several useful metals (classification). Rule 3. Summary: Superlatives demand 'the'; uncountable nouns in generic statements demand zero article.

Q59. Model Answer:

Ans: Sentence: 'The President of the United States delivered an address to the United Nations General Assembly on the importance of nuclear disarmament.' Article-by-article analysis: 1. 'The President' — 'the' is used because President is a TITLE followed by a qualifying phrase ('of the United States'), making the referent uniquely identifiable. Rule 12. 2. 'the United States' — takes 'the' because the country name contains a common noun component ('States') and is plural in form. Rule 10 and Rule 14. 3. 'an address' — 'address' is a singular countable noun, first mention, non-specific (one of many possible addresses) → 'an' (vowel sound /ə/). Rule 2. 4. 'the United Nations General Assembly' — 'the' because 'United Nations' is an international body whose name contains common noun components; it is a unique, known institution. Rule 10. 5. 'the importance' — 'importance' is made specific by the qualifying clause 'of nuclear disarmament', making it uniquely identifiable. Rule 8. 6. 'nuclear disarmament' — abstract compound noun in a general sense → zero article. Rule 15. Every article in this sentence follows a distinct rule, making it an excellent comprehensive example.

Q60. Model Answer:

Ans: MODEL PARAGRAPH on 'The Role of Technology in Education': "Technology has transformed education in ways that were unimaginable a century ago. A student today can access an entire library through a single device. The internet has democratised learning, making knowledge available to even the most remote communities. An online course can reach thousands of learners simultaneously, eliminating geographical barriers. Universities now offer digital classrooms as an alternative to traditional instruction, and the results have been remarkable." ANNOTATIONS: 1. 'Technology' — zero article. Abstract/uncountable

noun in general sense. Rule 15. 2. 'education' — zero article. Abstract noun, general sense. Rule 15. 3. 'a century' — indefinite article. Rate/quantity expression; one century among many. Rule 2. 4. 'A student today' — indefinite article. Generic singular noun; any typical student. Rule 20/2. 5. 'an entire library' — indefinite article. First mention, vowel sound /ɛ/. Rule 1 + Rule 2. 6. 'a single device' — indefinite article. Non-specific, singular countable. Rule 2. 7. 'The internet' — definite article. Unique, globally known entity. Rule 8. 8. 'the most remote communities' — definite article. Superlative construction. Rule 9. 9. 'An online course' — indefinite article. Non-specific, first mention; vowel sound /ɒ/. Rule 1 + Rule 2. 10. 'Universities' — zero article. Generic plural. Rule 15. 11. 'digital classrooms' — zero article. Generic plural, non-specific. Rule 15. 12. 'an alternative' — indefinite article. Vowel sound /ɔ:/. Rule 1 + Rule 2. 13. 'the results' — definite article. Refers back to the already-established context of digital classrooms. Rule 7.

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