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Basic Rules for A, An, and The

Easy | A1 | Elementary | Beginners | Article | Determiner | English Grammar Basics

1. Complete the frustrated roommate's text message by choosing the correct articles.

"Could you please put ___ milk back in ___ fridge when you're done? It's turning into cheese on the counter!"

Select one.

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

2. Help the wizard update his magical pet journal by choosing the correct article for each blank.

Yesterday, I adopted _____ iguana and _____ tiny dragon from the magical shelter. I was completely shocked when _____ iguana immediately turned invisible and stole my hat!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
A) an
B) a
C) the

Blank 2
A) a
B) an
C) the

Blank 3
A) the
B) a
C) an

3. Help the young wizard double-check his shopping list for potion ingredients. Select ALL the sentences that use "a" and "an" correctly!

Select all that apply.

A) We require an honest goblin for the bank.
B) Please buy a unicorn horn for the spell.
C) I need an umbrella for my pet toad.
D) Don't forget to pack an wooden wand.
E) Throw in a eye of newt for good luck.

4. Help the nervous tourist finish her travel checklist by choosing the correct article for each gap.

Book _____ one-way ticket to Rome.
Buy _____ European plug adapter for my phone.
Pack _____ extra pair of socks, just in case.
Download _____ MP3 guide to the city.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
A) an
B) a

Blank 2
A) a
B) an

Blank 3

- **A)** a
- **B)** an

Blank 4

- **A)** an
- **B)** a

5. Fill in the blanks for this frustrated roommate's text message.

I need _____ new roommate. Someone hid _____ remote control again, and I'm stuck watching a documentary about competitive cheese rolling.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** a
- **B)** an
- **C)** the

Blank 2

- **A)** a
- **B)** an
- **C)** the

6. Read Detective Clouseau's field notes about the great bakery heist. Select ALL the sentences that correctly apply the rules for first and second mentions of a noun.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I saw a suspicious man holding a baguette. The man was running very fast.
- **B)** A pigeon flew away with a croissant. The pigeon looked extremely pleased with itself.
- **C)** I saw the suspicious man holding a baguette. A man was running very fast.
- **D)** A dog chased a cat out of the kitchen. A dog was barking loudly.

7. Complete the astronaut's transmission to Earth by dropping the right words into her report.

We just installed _____ new telescope on the space station. It took almost _____ hour to set up, but now we have a perfect view of _____ moon glowing brightly against the darkness!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** a
- **B)** an
- **C)** the

Blank 2

- **A)** an
- **B)** a
- **C)** the

Blank 3

- **A)** the
- **B)** a
- **C)** an

8. Zorg the alien is trying to order food at a diner but keeps messing up his earthly grammar. Select ALL the sentences where Zorg uses "a/an" and "the" correctly!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Could you pass me the salt on the table?
- **B)** I need a napkin because I spilled my cosmic soup.
- **C)** The waitress who took our order was very friendly.
- **D)** I am looking at a moon outside the window.
- **E)** I would like to order a most expensive dish here.

9. Help the hungry detective finish his secret case notes by choosing the correct article for each blank.

I disguised myself as _____ undercover cop and sat in the diner. I ordered _____ sandwich with extra pickles, and then I kept my eyes entirely focused on _____ manager of the restaurant.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** an
- **B)** a
- **C)** the

Blank 2

- **A)** a
- **B)** an
- **C)** the

Blank 3

- **A)** the
- **B)** a
- **C)** an

10. Complete the undercover alien's logbook entry by choosing the correct words for each gap.

Today, I spent _____ hour observing humans at _____ university. It was fascinating, though I still don't understand why they carry heavy bags on their backs.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** a
- **B)** an
- **C)** the

Blank 2

- **A)** a
- **B)** an
- **C)** the

11. Help the detective finish her rather unusual crime scene report by selecting the correct articles.

I entered the room and saw _____ half-eaten sandwich on the desk. Suddenly, _____ sandwich started moving!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** the
- **B)** a
- **C)** an

Blank 2

- **A)** a
- **B)** an
- **C)** the