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The Zero Article: When No Article Is Needed

Medium | A2 | Elementary | Pre-intermediate | Article | Determiner | English Grammar Basics

1. Complete the travel blogger's enthusiastic post about their Italian adventure by choosing the correct word for each blank.

We always eat _____ breakfast on the sunny balcony overlooking the sea. Tomorrow, we are traveling to _____ Mount Vesuvius to hike up the volcano. I just hope my husband doesn't drop his phone into _____ crater while taking selfies!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** the
- **B)** a
- **C)** (no article)

Blank 2

- **A)** the
- **B)** a
- **C)** (no article)

Blank 3

- **A)** the
- **B)** a
- **C)** (no article)

2. Help the dramatic Aunt Martha finish her gossipy email about the neighborhood scandal by choosing the correct option for each blank.

Did you hear that Cousin Vinny was sent to _____ prison for stealing a neighbor's riding lawnmower? He used to be such a sweet boy who just loved playing _____ baseball in the yard. Now his poor mother has to drive to _____ prison every single Sunday just to deliver his favorite chocolate chip cookies.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** the
- **B)** a
- **C)** (no article)

Blank 2

- **A)** the
- **B)** a
- **C)** (no article)

Blank 3

- **A)** the
- **B)** a
- **C)** (no article)

3. A busy college student is texting their mom about their chaotic schedule. Select ALL the text messages that are grammatically correct regarding the use of articles with sports, academic subjects, and meals.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I had cold pizza for breakfast again today.
- **B)** I usually play tennis to relax after studying chemistry.
- **C)** I am studying the biology and the physics this semester.
- **D)** I usually skip the lunch when I am rushing to class.

4. Complete the exhausted college student's text message to their best friend by choosing the correct option for each blank.

They say that _____ laughter is the best medicine. But honestly, _____ coffee in huge amounts is what actually cures my grumpy morning mood. Just make sure you don't drink _____ coffee in the pot downstairs. It has been there since Monday!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** the
- **B)** a
- **C)** (no article)

Blank 2

- **A)** the
- **B)** a
- **C)** (no article)

Blank 3

- **A)** the
- **B)** a
- **C)** (no article)

5. Help the eccentric billionaire dictate their weekend travel plans to their assistant. Select the appropriate article (or lack thereof) for each gap.

Cancel my meetings! I am skipping _____ Alps this year because it's too crowded. Instead, I'm flying to _____ Asia to attempt climbing _____ Mount Everest before dinner. Have my helicopter ready!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** a
- **B)** the
- **C)** (no article)

Blank 2

- **A)** a
- **B)** the
- **C)** (no article)

Blank 3

- **A)** a
- **B)** the
- **C)** (no article)

6. A wildlife documentary narrator is double-checking his script before stepping into the recording booth. Select ALL the sentences that correctly apply the rules for articles with plural nouns.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Elephants are highly intelligent creatures that form deep family bonds.
- **B)** The elephants at the local rescue center are very playful today.
- **C)** The elephants are highly intelligent creatures in general.
- **D)** An elephants can remember migration routes to distant water sources.

7. Help the adventurous foodie complete their online restaurant review. Select the best option for each gap.

For _____ breakfast, I usually just eat toast, but this place is wild! They serve _____ fried crickets with garlic. I must admit, however, that _____ crickets they served today were surprisingly crunchy.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** a
- **B)** the
- **C)** (no article)

Blank 2

- **A)** a
- **B)** the
- **C)** (no article)

Blank 3

- **A)** a
- **B)** the
- **C)** (no article)

8. Choose the correct word to complete the barista's dramatic claim.

According to our highly caffeinated barista, _____ is the only thing keeping modern society from completely collapsing before noon.

Select one.

- **A)** the coffee
- **B)** a coffee
- **C)** coffees
- **D)** coffee

9. Help the modern philosopher finalize the intro for his new podcast, "Deep Thoughts & Coffee." Select ALL the sentences that correctly use (or omit!) articles for abstract and uncountable nouns.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Wisdom comes from experience, not just reading books.
- **B)** Time is our most valuable resource, so spend it wisely.
- **C)** The happiness is something we all chase, but rarely catch.
- **D)** Let me give you an advice before we start today's episode.

10. Complete the stressed college student's text message to their roommate. Choose the correct option for each blank.

I am absolutely terrible at _____ mathematics! I spent all night in the library, and now I just want to go home and climb right into _____ bed. Unfortunately, I have to give a presentation in _____ Spanish first. Wish me luck!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** a
- **B)** the
- **C)** (no article)

Blank 2

- **A)** a
- **B)** the
- **C)** (no article)

Blank 3

- **A)** a
- **B)** the
- **C)** (no article)

11. Help the confused time traveler complete his journal entry.

According to the time traveler, studying _____ is much harder when you already know exactly how the future turns out.

Select one.

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

12. Complete the henchman's career advice blog post.

When you work as a henchman for the evil Dr. Chaos, you just have to accept that going to _____ is an occupational hazard.

Select one.

- **A)** the prison
- **B)** a prison
- **C)** prison
- **D)** prisons