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# Articles and Determiners

## Articles

An article is a monosyllabic determiner that precedes a noun. There are three articles 'a', 'an', and 'the'.

## Determiners

Determiners are words that come at the beginning of noun phrases and before adjectives. A determiner is used to modify a noun. It indicates reference to something specific or something of a particular type.

*This, that, these those, some, any, no, all, each, every, both, either, neither, much, many, little, a little, few, a few, several, enough, plenty, too much, too many, less, least, more, most, a lot, lots, which, what, one, another, no, none, fewer, fewest, other, my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their*

## Practice Centre

### Exercise I

Insert 'a/an' or 'the' in the blanks in the following passage.

I could hear 1. \_\_\_\_\_ strange sound as I approached 2. \_\_\_\_\_ end of 3. \_\_\_\_\_ road. At 4. \_\_\_\_\_ corner stood 5. \_\_\_\_\_ boy and 6. \_\_\_\_\_ girl. 7. \_\_\_\_\_ girl was crying and 8. \_\_\_\_\_ boy was trying to comfort her. Apparently she had dropped 9. \_\_\_\_\_ ten-dollar note somewhere on 10. \_\_\_\_\_ sidewalk. She was catching 11. \_\_\_\_\_ train to Kuala Lumpur and 12. \_\_\_\_\_ note was to pay 13. \_\_\_\_\_ fare. Now she was going to miss 14. \_\_\_\_\_ train. 15. \_\_\_\_\_ three of us walked back along 16. \_\_\_\_\_ road looking carefully in 17. \_\_\_\_\_ gutter. Suddenly we saw 18. \_\_\_\_\_ piece of paper lying beside 19. \_\_\_\_\_ drain; it was 20. \_\_\_\_\_ the ten-dollar note! 21. \_\_\_\_\_ girl let out 22. \_\_\_\_\_ shriek of delight, grabbed 23. \_\_\_\_\_ precious thing, gave us both 24. \_\_\_\_\_ hug and ran off in 25. \_\_\_\_\_ direction of 26. \_\_\_\_\_ station.

### Exercise II

Complete the quotations with 'a', 'an', 'the' or - (= no article)

1. When I was born, I was so surprised that I couldn't talk for \_\_\_\_\_ year and \_\_\_\_\_ half. (Grace Allen)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ dog is \_\_\_\_\_ only thing on earth that loves you more than you love yourself. (Josh Billings)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Americans like \_\_\_\_\_ fat books and \_\_\_\_\_ thin women. (Russell Baker)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ death is \_\_\_\_\_ nature's way of telling you to slow down. (Anonymous)
5. I love acting. It is so much more real than \_\_\_\_\_ life. (Oscar Wilde)

6. When I was \_\_\_\_\_ boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have \_\_\_\_\_ old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years.  
(Mark Twain)

7. \_\_\_\_\_ banker is \_\_\_\_\_ man who lends you \_\_\_\_\_ umbrella when \_\_\_\_\_ weather is fair, and takes it away from you when it rains.  
(Anonymous)

8. \_\_\_\_\_ actor's \_\_\_\_\_ guy who, if you ain't talking about him, ain't listening. (Attributed to Marlon Brando)

### Exercise III

Read the conversation below and fill in the gaps using demonstrative determiners : 'this', 'that', 'these', 'those'

Pulkit Man! I really hate 1. \_\_\_\_\_ jeans. They fit me badly.

Pulkit Ok I'll try 6. \_\_\_\_\_ on. I like 7. \_\_\_\_\_ colour better.

Pranav Why don't you buy some new jeans? 2. \_\_\_\_\_ jeans over there aren't so tight?

Pulkit Hand them to me. Ah! Are you kidding? 8. \_\_\_\_\_ pockets are ridiculous.

Pulkit Ok. (He tries them on)  
I like 3. \_\_\_\_\_ jeans. But 4. \_\_\_\_\_ colour is drab.

Pranav Yeah. They really are! Sorry, brother, I didn't turn 9. \_\_\_\_\_ around.

Pranav How about 5. \_\_\_\_\_ pair I have here?

Pulkit 10. \_\_\_\_\_ 's all right. I'll get the first pair. They fit me better.

Pranav Good idea.

### Exercise IV

Complete the conversation by selecting the most appropriate option from the choices given below.

Assistant These plain sofas come in two different styles.

Sakshi I think 1. \_\_\_\_\_ styles are rather old fashioned. 2. \_\_\_\_\_ of them, is really what I want. I don't like 3. \_\_\_\_\_ of them, I'm afraid.

Assistant What about a patterned fabric? There are some lovely colours here.

Sakshi I feel more and more unsure with 4. \_\_\_\_\_ new fabric I look at.

Mark We haven't got time to look at 5. \_\_\_\_\_ fabric in the shop. We've been in here a 6. \_\_\_\_\_ hour already, you know.

- |            |        |          |           |
|------------|--------|----------|-----------|
| 1. a every | b each | c whole  | d both    |
| 2. a Every | b Each | c Either | d Neither |
| 3. a every | b each | c either | d neither |
| 4. a every | b each | c whole  | d both    |
| 5. a every | b each | c whole  | d both    |
| 6. a every | b each | c whole  | d both    |

### Exercise V

Read the story and fill in the gaps by selecting from the options given below.

'I wonder if we'll get 1. \_\_\_\_\_ people to come to next month's meeting?' Manvi asked Shiv. She was talking about the Majestic Literary Society. 'I hope so,' replied Shiv. 'We really need 2. \_\_\_\_\_ members if the society is to go on operating, and we need to make sure that 3. \_\_\_\_\_ members come to meetings. We have 4. \_\_\_\_\_ members who never come to meetings'.

'Perhaps we'll get a better attendance in the spring', said Manvi. 'People tend to show 5. \_\_\_\_\_ enthusiasm for societies in the middle of winter. They don't want to go out when it's cold and dark'.

'Certain members didn't show 6. \_\_\_\_\_ interest in tonight's topic, said Alok. 'Yet, science fiction is a popular subject'.

'I think we need to try and attract speakers who are better known,' said Misha. 'It's all very well getting members who know a lot about the subject to speak, but we need 7. \_\_\_\_\_ professional writers'.

'Easier said than done', said Shiv. 'We can't pay them 8. \_\_\_\_\_, not even their full expenses and 9. \_\_\_\_\_ people do anything for nothing these days'.

'I think writers may be an exception to that rule', said Alisha. 'Speaking to groups of people provides valuable promotion for their books'.

That's true, 'said Misha, 'and the bookshop in the next town has in the past arranged 10. \_\_\_\_\_ of those sessions at which writers sign their books. We could contact them and suggest we get 11. \_\_\_\_\_ of their authors as speakers.'

'Good idea!' said Manvi. 'Would you contact the bookshop, Misha, since it was your idea?'

When Misha got to the bookshop she was disappointed because the sales assistant didn't show 12. \_\_\_\_\_ interest in the idea. In fact, she showed 13. \_\_\_\_\_ interest in books at all!

Misha, however, arranged to meet the bookshop owner. Fortunately, he was extremely keen on the idea. He said that 14. \_\_\_\_\_ authors needed 15. \_\_\_\_\_ encouragement to take part in signing sessions in bookshops in small towns. The opportunity to speak to 16. \_\_\_\_\_ potential book-buyers in the area might provide this encouragement. Misha immediately arranged a meeting with the rest of the committee members of the literary society.

- |                |            |           |            |
|----------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. a more      | b some     | c few     | d many     |
| 2. a some      | b more     | c much    | d many     |
| 3. a much      | b few      | c all     | d more     |
| 4. a several   | b little   | c a few   | d many     |
| 5. a few       | b less     | c little  | d a little |
| 6. a more      | b much     | c many    | d less     |
| 7. a some      | b a little | c a few   | d several  |
| 8. a more      | b much     | c less    | d all      |
| 9. a a little  | b less     | c a few   | d few      |
| 10. a much     | b all      | c several | d many     |
| 11. a some     | b a little | c a few   | d more     |
| 12. a some     | b more     | c much    | d a little |
| 13. a much     | b little   | c more    | d less     |
| 14. a a few    | b few      | c little  | d some     |
| 15. a a little | b little   | c a few   | d few      |
| 16. a many     | b much     | c more    | d several  |

## Exercise VI

In the following passage fill in each gap with 'a', 'an', 'the', 'some' or 'any'.

We decided yesterday that we must have 1. \_\_\_\_\_ holiday, so we called in at 2. \_\_\_\_\_ travel agent's for 3. \_\_\_\_\_ brochures. We fancied 4. \_\_\_\_\_ trip to New Zealand, but 5. \_\_\_\_\_ travel agent couldn't offer 6. \_\_\_\_\_ cheap fares there during 7. \_\_\_\_\_ fortnight we wanted. He offered us 8. \_\_\_\_\_ attractive alternative: 9. \_\_\_\_\_ return flight to London at 10. \_\_\_\_\_ reduced rate, with 11. \_\_\_\_\_ week's stay in 12. \_\_\_\_\_ luxury hotel in 13. \_\_\_\_\_ city centre.

14. \_\_\_\_\_ whole cost will be no more than \$ 800 each. At 15. \_\_\_\_\_ hotel we get 16. \_\_\_\_\_ full breakfast, 17. \_\_\_\_\_ packed lunch, and 18. \_\_\_\_\_ three-course dinner. 19. \_\_\_\_\_ bedrooms are all en suite. 20. \_\_\_\_\_ tour operators organise 21. \_\_\_\_\_ bus tour round London, so that we can see 22. \_\_\_\_\_ main sights, plus 23. \_\_\_\_\_ evening at one of 24. \_\_\_\_\_ famous theatres.

We didn't hesitate for 25. \_\_\_\_\_ single moment. We booked 26. \_\_\_\_\_ tickets straight away, and we leave next Sunday morning on 27. \_\_\_\_\_ earliest possible flight. Let's hope there won't be 28. \_\_\_\_\_ terrible delays. We're looking forward to having 29. \_\_\_\_\_ fun!

## Exercise VII

Choose from the options given below to complete the sentences.

- This car hardly uses \_\_\_\_\_.  
a petrol                      b any petrol  
c some petrol                d no petrol
- Could you lend me \_\_\_\_\_ for a few days?  
a money                      b any money  
c some money                d a little money
- \_\_\_\_\_ language do they speak in Brazil?  
a Which                      b What  
c —                            d Plenty
- There's \_\_\_\_\_ ice cream in the fridge, if you'd like some.  
a little                      b a little  
c few                         d a few
- She walked out without \_\_\_\_\_ explanation.  
a any                         b no  
c some                        d least
- Those people have \_\_\_\_\_ money.  
a much                        b a lot  
c a lot of                      d lots of
- I bought the \_\_\_\_\_ expensive bike.  
a less                         b least  
c another                      d other
- I can write with \_\_\_\_\_ hand.  
a every                        b two  
c either                        d both

## Exercise VIII

Choose the appropriate options to complete the sentences.

- Today \_\_\_\_\_ people who enjoy winter sports is bigger than that twenty years ago.  
a a number of                b many  
c the number of              d several
- According to the studies, dolphins, whales and \_\_\_\_\_ other sea creatures use highly sophisticated navigation systems.  
a any                         b a little  
c many                        d much
- The dietary habits of a child often have \_\_\_\_\_ to do with that child's eating habits as an adult.  
a little                        b whole  
c every                        d most
- In the United States of America, there are adult literacy classes for workers, \_\_\_\_\_ of whom never graduated from high school.  
a a little                      b much  
c any                         d many
- In the first \_\_\_\_\_ months of life, an infant learns how to lift its head, how to smile and how to recognise its parents.  
a many                        b a lot of  
c any                         d few
- After \_\_\_\_\_ terms in Congress, Shirley Chisholm became an important United States politician.
- Although \_\_\_\_\_ explanation.
- Those people have \_\_\_\_\_ money.
- I bought the \_\_\_\_\_ expensive bike.
- I can write with \_\_\_\_\_ hand.
- Today \_\_\_\_\_ people who enjoy winter sports is bigger than that twenty years ago.
- Although the language learning abilities of apes have surprised \_\_\_\_\_ scientists, they generally agree that apes do not progress beyond \_\_\_\_\_ linguistic abilities of a two-year-old child.  
a few, a                        b a little, the  
c many, the                    d much, the
- The storm continued for \_\_\_\_\_ of the days when we were in New Orleans, but fortunately there wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ damage in the city.  
a a few, many                b several, a lot  
c all, a little                 d most, much
- Heavy fines and jail sentences have made \_\_\_\_\_ difference in preventing elephant poaching for their tusks.  
a a few                        b little  
c many                        d none
- Although \_\_\_\_\_ species of fox are reddish in colour, \_\_\_\_\_ Arctic fox is often pure white.  
a any, the                      b plenty, the  
c all, an                        d most, the