

Aggie Grammar Guide: Articles (the, a, an)

Answer Key

Intermediate Practice

- 1) I always thought that **Ø** America would have **a** lot of **Ø** Caucasians.
- 2) **Ø** Stress has **a** great impact on **Ø/the** students' academic performance.
(**"Ø"** would refer to general, unspecified students. **"The"** would refer to specific students who have been identified in a prior sentence.)
- 3) **A/The** successful climber is **a** wise judge of **Ø** physical ability and **a** good decision maker.
(**"A"** would refer to any climber, but no one climber in particular. **"The"** is a more formal option and would refer to a typical climber as representative of the whole class of climbers.)
- 4) In addition, **the** media do not anticipate **Ø/the** dangers and **Ø/the** risks.
(**"Ø"** would refer to general, unspecified dangers and risks. **"The"** would refer to specific dangers and risks that have been identified from the context. For the specific meaning, **"the"** can occur just before the first noun or before both nouns.)
- 5) In almost every Chinese school, rather than teaching students how to actually speak in English, educators teach students how to deal with English exams. Actually, **the** issue has become **a/the** major problem among **Ø/the** Chinese students in **Ø/the** American colleges.
(Use **"the"** if there is only one problem, one specific group of Chinese students, and an emphasis on American colleges over others.)
- 6) **An/The** author describes how **Ø** Google will have **a** hard time to get into **the** automotive industry. (**"An"** would be used if the author's name has not yet been mentioned; **"the"** would be used to refer to a specific, named author.)
- 7) How does **an/the** electric motor work in **a/the** hybrid car?
(**"An"** would refer to a general motor/hybrid car, not one in particular. **"The"** would refer to a typical electric motor/hybrid car as representative of the whole class of electric motors/hybrid cars.)

Advanced Practice

- 1) This was my first time to read the long chapter about the space lives.
 - A. time, chapter, lives
 - B. This was my first time to read **a** long chapter about **space lives**.
- 2) In the article, author gave an example about Facebook.
 - A. article, author, example, Facebook
 - B. In the article, **the** author gave an example about Facebook.
- 3) With their amazing charisma, the United Kingdom and France are the representative countries of the Europe.
 - A. charisma, United Kingdom, France, countries, Europe
 - B. With their amazing charisma, the United Kingdom and France are **the/Ø** representative countries of **Europe**.
("The" would be used if the United Kingdom and France are the only two representative countries of Europe. No article [Ø] would imply that other representative countries of Europe exist besides these two.)
- 4) Language is the one of the most important factor that I will consider.
 - A. language, one, factors
 - B. Language is one of the most important **factors** that I will consider
- 5) The first reason why the mobile phones are the most beneficial invention in the last 100 years is that mobile phones can strengthen people's relationship.
 - A. reason, mobile phones, invention, years, mobile phones, relationship
 - B. The first reason why **mobile phones** are the most beneficial invention in the last 100 years is that mobile phones can strengthen people's **relationships**.
- 6) For example, the author mentioned that by 2080 only six cities will be able to hold Winter Olympics because of the global warming.
 - A. example, author, 2080, cities, Winter Olympics, global warming
 - B. For example, the author mentioned that by 2080 only six cities will be able to hold **the** Winter Olympics because of **global warming**.
- 7) I was amazed by what majority of men expected women to be in the 1700s.
 - A. majority, men, women, 1700s
 - B. I was amazed by what **the** majority of men expected women to be in the 1700s.