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 representative countries of Europe.

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.