

EAL Easy Quiz

Are you a visitor?

Are you a visitor? This quiz looks at articles. Are you a student? We'll find out how well you know about using 'a', 'an' and 'the' in English ... and also, where we DON'T use those words, where you might expect them in your own language. In each question, only ONE version is right: which one is it?



1. Choose the correct sentence.

- My brother is farmer in Wales.
- My brother is a farmer in Wales.
- My brother is farmer in the Wales.
- My brother is the farmer in a Wales.

2. Choose the correct sentence.

- To make pancakes you need eggs, flour, milk and oil or butter.
- To make pancakes you need some eggs, some flour, some milk and some oil or some butter.
- To make the pancakes you need the eggs, the flour, the milk and the oil or the butter.
- For to make some pancakes you need eggs, flour, milk and oil or butter.

3. Choose the correct sentence.

- The baby girl of my sister has the blue eyes and the fair hair.
- My sister's baby girl has the blue eyes and the fair hairs.
- My sister's baby girl has blue eyes and fair hair.
- The my sister girl baby girl has the eyes blue and the hair fair.

4. Choose the correct sentence.

- Who was old man in far corner of room?
- Who was the old man in the far corner of the room?
- Who was the old man in far corner of room?
- Who was old man in the far corner of room?

5. Choose the correct sentence.

- The Captain Webb was the first person to swim the English Channel.
- Captain Webb was first person to swim the English Channel.
- Captain Webb was the first person to swim the English Channel.
- Captain Webb was the first person to swim English Channel.

6. Choose the correct sentence.

- The doctor Jones doesn't often have the time for a cooked breakfast in the morning.
- Doctor Jones doesn't often have the time for a cooked breakfast in the morning.
- The doctor Jones doesn't often have time for a cooked breakfast in morning.
- The doctor Jones doesn't often have time for cooked breakfast in a morning.

7. Choose the correct sentence.

- Please contact this office again during last week of the February.
- Please contact this office again during the last week of the February.
- Please contact this office again during the last week of February.
- Please contact this office again during last week of February.

8. Choose the correct sentence.

- Baby arrived before nurse could come, at the nine in morning. She was held up in traffic.
- A baby arrived before a nurse could come, at the nine in a morning. She was held up in traffic.
- Baby arrived before a nurse could come, at a nine in the morning. She was held up in traffic.
- The baby arrived before the nurse could come, at nine in the morning. She was held up in the traffic.

9. Choose the correct sentence.

- In the bag were a small box and a quantity of money from a foreign country.
- In bag were small box and quantity of money from foreign country.
- In bag were the small box and quantity of money from the foreign country.
- In a bag were small box and quantity of the money from foreign country.

10. Choose the correct sentence.

Leaves turn brown and fall off a trees in an autumn.

Leaves turn brown and fall off of trees in an autumn.

The leaves turn brown and fall off the trees in a autumn.

Leaves turn brown and fall off the trees in the autumn.

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1. Choose the correct sentence.

- My brother is farmer in Wales.
- My brother is a farmer in Wales.
- My brother is farmer in the Wales.
- My brother is the farmer in a Wales.

English almost always puts 'a' or 'an' in front when saying what job someone does ('My old man's a dustman'), but we don't usually put 'a' or 'the' in front of the name of a country.

2. Choose the correct sentence.

- To make pancakes you need eggs, flour, milk and oil or butter.
- To make pancakes you need some eggs, some flour, some milk and some oil or some butter.
- To make the pancakes you need the eggs, the flour, the milk and the oil or the butter.
- For to make some pancakes you need eggs, flour, milk and oil or butter.

When we talk about substances in general (that is, without saying what kind or how much), we just say the name of the stuff without any other words in front. This is easier in English than in some other languages!

3. Choose the correct sentence.

- The baby girl of my sister has the blue eyes and the fair hair.
- My sister's baby girl has the blue eyes and the fair hairs.
- My sister's baby girl has blue eyes and fair hair.
- The my sister girl baby girl has the eyes blue and the hair fair.

In English we don't need to put 'the' in front of names of parts of the body. ('Oh grandmother, what big teeth you have!' ... NOT 'the big teeth'!)

4. Choose the correct sentence.

- Who was old man in far corner of room?
- Who was the old man in the far corner of the room?
- Who was the old man in far corner of room?
- Who was old man in the far corner of room?

We use 'the' to mean 'one particular thing', when we're not actually pointing at it.

5. Choose the correct sentence.

- The Captain Webb was the first person to swim the English Channel.
- Captain Webb was first person to swim the English Channel.
- Captain Webb was the first person to swim the English Channel.
- Captain Webb was the first person to swim English Channel.

English does NOT use 'the' in front of the titles of people (like 'Colonel Mustard'); but we use it in front of 'first', 'last' and other positions (like 'King Henry the Eighth' when we speak of him), and in front of famous place names like the Lake District and the Cairngorm Mountains.

6. Choose the correct sentence.

- The doctor Jones doesn't often have the time for a cooked breakfast in the morning.
- Doctor Jones doesn't often have the time for a cooked breakfast in the morning.
- The doctor Jones doesn't often have time for a cooked breakfast in morning.
- The doctor Jones doesn't often have time for cooked breakfast in a morning.

No 'the' in front of the titles of important people, remember; after that, you will need at least one 'the' and at least one 'a'.

7. Choose the correct sentence.

- Please contact this office again during last week of the February.
- Please contact this office again during the last week of the February.
- Please contact this office again during the last week of February.
- Please contact this office again during last week of February.

Remember, we use 'the' in front of a phrase that shows a position in order ('the first or second person'), but NOT usually in front of names of days or months.

8. Choose the correct sentence.

- Baby arrived before nurse could come, at the nine in morning. She was held up in traffic.
- A baby arrived before a nurse could come, at the nine in a morning. She was held up in traffic.
- Baby arrived before a nurse could come, at a nine in the morning. She was held up in traffic.
- The baby arrived before the nurse could come, at nine in the morning. She was held up in the traffic.

Clearly, this is quite a detailed situation (and quite serious, and quite memorable) ... so you will probably need lots of definite articles ('the'): 3 or 4 or them, in fact.

9. Choose the correct sentence.

- In the bag were a small box and a quantity of money from a foreign country.
- In bag were small box and quantity of money from foreign country.
- In bag were the small box and quantity of money from the foreign country.
- In a bag were small box and quantity of the money from foreign country.

This is not such a 'definite' situation, so you are more likely to need 'a' or 'an' here and there.

10. Choose the correct sentence.

- Leaves turn brown and fall off a trees in an autumn.
- Leaves turn brown and fall off of trees in an autumn.
- The leaves turn brown and fall off the trees in a autumn.
- Leaves turn brown and fall off the trees in the autumn.

Remember what we said about putting articles in front of the names of seasons?