

Articles

Language Focus**1. “a” & “an”**

- Someone / something is mentioned for the 1st time
e.g. A very tall lady has recently moved to live next door.
- Meaning “one” (especially with numbers or measuring units)
e.g. She has never lived in an Asian city.
- Meaning “every”
e.g. I can hear her play the piano twice a week.
- Certain illnesses
e.g. Miss Ehlers is having a fever / a cold / a headache.
- “a” VS “an” (special cases in which the spelling confuses you)

A	An
European	hour
unit	honest child
university	MTR ticket
uniform	X-ray
useful / useless tool	

2. “the”

- Someone / something is mentioned before
e.g. My new neighbour is a very tall lady. I’ve just met the lady in the elevator.
- You are referring to a particular person or thing
e.g. This lady has moved into the flat next to ours.
- Unique objects
e.g. Miss Ehlers is very fond of drawing the sun / the moon / the earth.
- Certain countries
e.g. Miss Ehlers used to live in the United States / the United Kingdom.
- Ability to play musical instruments
e.g. Our new neighbour can play the piano / the violin.
- A group of people
e.g. Miss Ehlers taught the poor / the rich / the old / the young.
- Nationality
e.g. Miss Ehlers says the French are extremely creative.
- Superlatives
e.g. Getting used to the weather is the most difficult thing of living in Hong Kong.

A. There is ONE mistake in each sentence. Underline it and make correction. If an article is omitted, put a ^ in the space where the article should be inserted and write the article on the line provided. If there is an extra an article, cross it out and write it on the line.

1. My new neighbour is an European lady.
2. She previously worked in United States.
3. Miss Ehlers once worked in an university.
4. One of Miss Ehlers's hobbies is playing piano.
5. She can also speak a little the French.
6. I had a breakfast with Miss Ehlers this morning.
7. Miss Ehlers is having headache.
8. I don't think I can beat her at the tennis.
9. Miss Ehlers had her arm broken at the school.
10. She had a X-ray to see which bones were broken.

B. Rewrite the sentences using the word(s) given with a suitable article (indicated by "...")
Sometimes no article is needed.

e.g. Miss Ehlers practices yoga every Friday. (once ... week)

Miss Ehlers practices yoga once a week.

1. This restaurant is frequented by wealthy people. (... rich)

2. She made us twelve cupcakes. (... dozen)

3. Her best friend has a gallery in Holland. (... Netherlands)

4. Miss Ehlers is having a body temperature of 39°C. (... high fever)

5. As a result, she was taken care of by doctors and nurses. (was in ... hospital)

6. Miss Ehlers usually eats early in the morning. (has ... breakfast)

7. Miss Ehlers says our fingers are very useful in drawing. (... useful tool)

8. People living in Spain are very fond of the colour red. (... Spanish)

C. Complete the sentences with suitable articles. If no article is needed, put an 'X' in the space.

1. Miss Ehlers is very fond of _____ sports. She is especially good at _____ tennis and she told me she had been _____ member of her university's tennis team.
2. She took me to _____ day care centre for _____ disabled last week. We were deeply impressed by _____ young boy. He used to be _____ right-hander but he lost his right arm in _____ accident. He has been trying very hard to learn drawing with his left hand. We stayed there for _____ hour.
3. Miss Ehlers says one of _____ best things of being _____ art teacher is that even when she is having _____ sore throat, she can still teach _____ students without any problems!
4. '_____ Children / children in _____ different countries have _____ different images of _____ sun,' Miss Ehlers said.
5. Miss Ehlers visits _____ friend living on _____ Lamma Island once _____ week. This is one of _____ friends that she made when she was teaching in _____ Philippines.
6. Apart from drawing and sports, my neighbor is actually very talented in _____ music. She can play _____ piano well and she is learning _____ flute these days.
7. In _____ first few days, Miss Ehlers bought _____ single MTR ticket every time. Then she found that it is more convenient to have _____ Octopus card.
8. Although Miss Ehlers can't speak _____ Cantonese, she says she is quite happy to live in _____ Hong Kong. She is thinking of moving to _____ another _____ Asian city when her contract with St. Jeremy's College is over.

