

## 14.2. Articles Review

I. With a partner, **do the quiz** below to see how much you know about **articles**.

**1. Which of the following do not need an article?**

the USA, the Indonesia, the Netherlands, the Gambia, the Antarctic, the Hague, the Berlin, the North Pole, the Europe, the European Union, the Oxford University, the Sahara, the Sierra Nevada, the Times, the Olympics

**2. Which of these words requires *a* rather than *an*?**

European, apple, university, hour, one-day ticket, household, union, MP, hotel

**3. Decide which of the sentences below is correct, i) or ii), and say why. If both are correct, then say what the difference in meaning is.**

**A** Ken is a personal trainer. Ken is personal trainer.

**B** I've been to the gym. I've been to a gym.

**C** My coach makes a great energy drink. My coach makes great energy drink.

**D** I love rich food. I love the rich food I had at the festival.

**E** Japanese enjoy sumo. The Japanese enjoy sumo.

**F** Come to dinner. I went to the dinner on Saturday.

**G** I play violin. I play the violin.

**H** I play tennis. I play the tennis.

**I** I want a drink of water. I want one drink of water.

**J** The weather is wet at the moment. Weather is wet at the moment.

**K** You need to wash the face. You need to wash your face.

**L** Go to bed! If you look under the bed you might find the book.

II. Read through this article and fill in the spaces with a suitable article: *a*, *an*, *the* or - (no article). There is sometimes more than one possibility, depending on meaning.



(1) ..... exercise season is upon us and January is (2) ..... busiest time at any gym as (3) ..... old members work off (4) ..... excesses of (5) ..... holiday period and new ones (6) ..... excesses of (7) ..... past five years. But (8) ..... experts warn that we should proceed with (9) ..... care; throwing yourself too vigorously into (10) ..... new fitness regime can make you vulnerable to (11) ..... number of (12) ..... health risks.

'(13) ..... exercise is (14) ..... stress on the body,' says Dr Nick Webborn, (15) ..... medical advisor to (16) ..... National Sports Medicine Institute. 'That's how it makes you fitter. You stimulate your body and it adapts to this stimulus by building (17) ..... muscle and strengthening (18) ..... heart and lungs.'

Done correctly, this will be one of (19) ..... most potent things you can do for your health – (20) ..... moderate exercise has been shown to lower (21) ..... risk of (22) ..... endless day-to-day ailments.

III. Many nouns require no article when used as part of an idiom or expression, for example *to take something to heart*. Write a sentence to show you know how to use the following idioms or expressions. Use a dictionary to help you.

<b>a</b> by word of mouth	<b>g</b> to be nose to tail
<b>b</b> to lie face downwards	<b>h</b> to come face to face with
<b>c</b> to set foot on	<b>i</b> to live from hand to mouth
<b>d</b> to have a heart to heart	<b>j</b> to be made by hand
<b>e</b> to walk hand in hand	<b>k</b> to fight tooth and nail
<b>f</b> to stroll arm in arm	<b>l</b> to see eye to eye

### Grammar Folder

#### Articles

- Plural, abstract and uncountable nouns do not need an article if they are used to talk about things in general. To limit these nouns a definite article is required.

*Sport is good for you.*

*The sport played the most is football.*

- Singular, concrete nouns require an article, except for some idioms. The definite article is precise and refers to something, while the indefinite article is vague and more general, or is used when something is mentioned for the first time.

*The runner in first place came from Kenya.*

*Steve is going to be a runner in the New York marathon.*

- No article is used with: certain countries; names of mountains; meals, unless they are formal ones; *bed, school, hospital, prison* if they are being used for their intended purpose.

*I intend to visit Australia.*

*She's in prison for stealing.*

*Come down for breakfast!*

- The definite article is used with: rivers, seas, oceans, chains of mountains, gulfs and bays; newspapers; before musical instruments; before a superlative adjective; when we know there is only one of something.

*Tessa plays the violin.*

*I read The Times.*

*The Sierra Nevada is a beautiful mountain range.*

*The sky is very blue.*

- The indefinite article is used when we mean 'one' of something unless we want to emphasise the amount.

*I'd like a cup of coffee.*

*Just one cup, not two.*