Articles and Determiners

Standard difficulty · 20 questions · 40 marks · Time: 36 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 40

Write full answers in Sections B and C. Answers are on the last page — try every question first!

Section A — Choose the correct answer — 8 × 1 = 8 marks

1. Which word takes “an” before it?
(a) hour **(b)** one-way street **(c)** one-rupee coin **(d)** year

2. Choose the right article: ____ Nile is a very long river.
(a) no article **(b)** An **(c)** The **(d)** A

3. Choose the right article: He goes to bed at ten every night after ____ dinner.
(a) the **(b)** a **(c)** no article **(d)** an

4. How ____ friends are there in the kitchen?
(a) a little **(b)** much **(c)** many **(d)** little

5. “An” is used before a word that begins with:
(a) a vowel sound **(b)** a capital letter
(c) a vowel letter, whatever its sound **(d)** a consonant sound

6. There is only ____ milk left, so we must buy more.
(a) a lot **(b)** a few **(c)** a little **(d)** many

7. We do not have ____ milk at home.
(a) an **(b)** some **(c)** any **(d)** a

8. Assertion (A): We write “an unicorn”.
Reason (R): “A” is used before a consonant sound and “an” before a vowel sound, whatever the first letter.
(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true, but R is false.
(d) A is false, but R is true.

Section B — Short answer — 8 × 2 = 16 marks

9. Write “a” or “an” before each: (a) ____ horse (b) ____ egg (c) ____ eagle (d) ____ year

10. Fill in the blank with a suitable article: ____ Western Ghats get heavy rain.

11. Fill in “much” or “many”: How ____ information do you need?

12. Fill in “few” or “little”: There are very ____ eggs here; most have gone.

13. Why do we say “a union” and not “an union”?

14. Does this sentence need an article in the blank? Explain: I am reading about ____ history.

15. Use “some” or “any” correctly: (a) Are there ____ friends in the bag? (b) Please give me ____ water.

16. Is “sugar” countable or uncountable? Write a sentence using it with “much”.

Section C — Longer answers — 4 × 4 = 16 marks

17. Fill in the blanks with a, an, the or “no article”:
(1) I ate ____ hour for breakfast.
(2) She has ____ union.
(3) ____ Ganga is the longest river in India.
(4) We eat ____ breakfast at seven.

18. Write four sentences about a picnic using “many friends”, “much sugar”, “a few students” and “a little milk”.

19. Explain the difference between “a few” and “few”, and between “a little” and “little”, with an example of each. Also say whether “user” takes “a” or “an”, and why.

20. Sort these into two groups, those that take “a” and those that take “an”: “kite”, “hour”, “useful tool”, “horse”, “island”, “banana”.

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Answer key

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Q	Answer	Working
1	**(a) hour**	“an” goes before a vowel sound, “a” before a consonant sound; it is the sound that counts, not the letter
2	**(c) The**	the sun, the moon, the earth, rivers, oceans, mountain ranges and famous buildings take “the”
3	**(c) no article**	languages, games, single mountains, cities, meals, subjects and ideas like honesty take no article
4	**(c) many**	“many” goes with things we can count
5	**(a) a vowel sound**	—
6	**(c) a little**	“a little” goes with uncountable nouns
7	**(c) any**	“any” is used in negative sentences
8	**(d) A is false, but R is true.**	A is false: it is “a unicorn”: “unicorn” begins with a consonant sound. R is true.
9	**(a) a horse, (b) an egg, (c) an eagle, (d) a year**	it is the first sound that counts
10	**The**	unique things and named rivers, oceans and buildings take “the”
11	**much**	uncountable noun
12	**few**	“few” goes with countable nouns
13	**“union” begins with a consonant sound (a “y” or “w” sound), so it takes “a”.**	—
14	**No article: languages, games, single mountains, cities, meals, subjects and ideas like honesty take no article.**	—
15	**(a) any; (b) some**	“any” in questions and negatives, “some” in requests and offers
16	**Uncountable; e.g. How much sugar do you have?**	—
17	**(1) an; (2) a; (3) The; (4) no article**	—
18	**Any correct sentences using each phrase.**	—
19	**“A few” and “a little” mean some (a positive idea); “few” and “little” mean hardly any (a negative idea). E.g. A few friends came, so we had fun. Few friends came, so it was quiet. “user” takes “a” (consonant sound).**	—
20	**a: kite, useful tool, horse, banana; an: hour, island**	it is the first sound that counts