EXERCISE 1: In the following dialogues, try to decide whether the speakers would probably use a/an or the.

1. A: I have an idea. Let’s go on a picnic Saturday.
   B: Okay.

2. A: Did you have fun at the picnic yesterday?
   B: Sure did. And you?

3. A: You’d better have a good reason for being late!
   B: I do.

4. A: Did you think the reason Jack gave for being late was believable?
   B: Not really.

5. A: Where’s my blue shirt?
   B: It’s in the washing machine. You’ll have to wear a different shirt.

6. A: I wish we had a washing machine.
   B: So do I. It would make it a lot easier to do our laundry.

7. A: What happened to your bicycle? The front wheel is bent.
   B: I ran into a parked car when I swerved to avoid a big pothole in the street.
   A: Did you damage the car?
   B: A little.

8. A: What did you do?
   B: I left a note for the owner of the car.
   A: What did you write on the note?
   B: My name and address. I also wrote an apology.

9. A: Can you repair my car for me?
   B: What’s wrong with it?
   A: The radiator has a leak, and one of the windshield wipers doesn’t work.
   B: Can you show me where the leak is?

10. A: Have you seen my boots?
    B: They’re in the/a closet in the front hallway.
EXERCISE 2: Complete the sentences with a/an, the, or leave blank if sentence is already correct.

1. Beef is a kind of meat.

2. The beef we had for dinner last night was excellent.

3. Jack is wearing a straw hat today.

4. Jack likes to wear hats.

5. A hat is an article of clothing.

6. Hats are articles of clothing.

7. The brown hats on that hook over there belongs to Mark.

8. Everyone has problems in life.

9. My grandfather had a long life.

10. That book is about the life of Helen Keller.

11. Tommy wants to be an engineer when he grows up.

12. The Brooklyn Bridge was designed by an engineer.

13. John Roebling is the name of the engineer who designed the Brooklyn Bridge. He died in 1869 from an infection. He died before the bridge was completed.

14. People wear jewelry to make themselves more attractive.

15. The jewelry Diana is wearing today is beautiful.