

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.