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Exercise 5.4: Articles

Underline the nouns in each sentence. Circle the article used or put 0 above the noun if there is no article. Then explain why *a/an*, *the*, or no article is used.

1. Hallway walls need to be painted every two or three years.

Explanation:

2. The letter that I just received is from an old friend.

Explanation:

3. I bought coffee from the Starbucks in the student union.

Explanation:

4. You can often see Early American furniture in museums.

Explanation:

5. Universities often have libraries with special collections.

Explanation:

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Exercise 5.5: Looking at Nouns in Context to Determine Article Use
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Underline the nouns in the paragraph from a student essay. For each noun, notice whether *the*, *a/an*, or *zero article* is used with it. For each noun, give a reason for the type of article or zero article. [The sentences are numbered only for reference in this exercise.] Note: The meaning of a noun may also be limited or made more definite by using demonstratives (e.g., *those*), possessives (e.g., *my*), and quantifiers (e.g., *some*). In such cases, articles are not used.

① I remember one day when I was traveling to another city by train. ② The journey was very long. ③ Sitting next to me there was a family who had annoying and unbearable children. ④ It was a long and horrible day for me. ⑤ I had to bear the noise and misbehavior of the children. ⑥ I know that children make noise. ⑦ They go through a noisy phase that is part of life. ⑧ That's their job. ⑨ The children were only being children, doing what children do. ⑩ However, there is a limit to everything. ⑪ Those children went far beyond the limit. ⑫ As a passenger, I am entitled to have a peaceful and quiet environment when traveling. ⑬ These parents should have kept their children quiet. ⑭ Before taking a long trip, parents should teach their children how to behave in a public place or when using public transportation. ⑮ In this way, neither the passengers nor the parents would have a hard time on their trip, and everybody would be relaxed, especially me!

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Exercise 5.6: Articles

In the paragraph, fill in the blanks with *a/an*, *the*, or 0 (for zero article). Be prepared to explain your answers. Answers may vary in some contexts.

Values and assumptions are different in each country. In _____ United States, high levels of competition can affect _____ social relationships among youth and adults, leading _____ people to consider themselves as single individuals who should be ready to achieve their personal goals instead of being cooperative. Sometimes _____ competitiveness prevents young people from just enjoying their activities; they forget that _____ primary purpose of _____ sports, music, and education is to enrich our lives and to teach us how to live in our society. It is _____ problem because _____ people are just focused on themselves. A major difference between _____ values of the United States and my country, Venezuela, is that we don't believe as much as Americans in _____ competition. We believe more in cooperation with each other. _____ example is that in America to find a job you need excellent skills and abilities to stand out from the rest of _____ potential employees. However, in Venezuela you just need to know people—the more contacts and more friends you have, the better. That is _____ culture of finding _____ job in my country. Having _____ friend or _____ family member is what is going to increase the chances of getting _____ employment. This shows how much we value _____ relationships in my country, but it can be _____ drawback because Venezuelans are more prepared to be friendly than to strive to be _____ best.

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Prepositions**[Handbook, Section 5C, pages 174–175]****Exercise 5.7: Prepositions**

Insert the correct preposition in each gap in the paragraph. The first two have been done for you as examples.

I did hair cuts ① for some friends recently, and I realized the process of hair-cutting is similar ② to the writing process. When you start to cut hair for somebody, you need to figure ③ _____ the best style for this person, so you consult ④ _____ her or him, give some suggestions, and get some feedback. This is the same as generating ideas ⑤ _____ writing. Then you start cutting the hair ⑥ _____ the shape you designed. ⑦ _____ this stage, you don't work ⑧ _____ the details, but rather cut the hair ⑨ _____ each area such that you get a basic style. This phase compares ⑩ _____ drafting in writing. As you go on, you may find that the hairstyle you designed first is not good enough ⑪ _____ some ways. Therefore, you need to change it to fit the shape ⑫ _____ the person's face. Revising for writing is the same. Although this phase is similar for both hair-cutting and writing, there is a little difference ⑬ _____ them. In writing, you can delete some paragraphs and write new ones, but in hair-cutting you cannot put ⑭ _____ the hair that you have cut ⑮ _____. Last, when you are happy ⑯ _____ the shape and style of the haircut, you need to work ⑰ _____ some details, like the final editing stage in writing. You can smooth the edges ⑱ _____ the hair, or put some gel ⑲ _____ it, while in your essay you may want to check the spelling, punctuation, citations, or bibliography.

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