

Articles “a”, “an” & “the” – Worksheet (Junior Secondary)

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Name: _____ Class: _____ () Date: _____

McDull’s friend Ah Fai is visiting London now. Below is an email Ah Fai has written to McDull about his trip in London. Read the email and answer the following questions.

Hi McDull

Mom and I arrived in London on Monday. I’m in the hotel now. It’s (1) a really good hotel. It has three restaurants: (2) a Chinese restaurant, (3) an Italian restaurant and (4) a Japanese restaurant. We had dinner in (5) the Japanese restaurant last night and really liked (6) the food there. (7) The hotel also has (8) a fitness centre and (9) an indoor swimming pool. Our room is high up – on (10) the 28th floor. From (11) the room, we have (12) a great view of (13) _____ and (14) _____. Outside, (15) _____ is fine. It’s warm and (16) _____ is blue.

(17) _____ in London is one of the world’s biggest transit systems. I went on it yesterday to see my cousin Melissa. She’s (18) a university student here. She’s (19) _____ of my mum’s sister Aunt Julia. Aunt Julia is (20) _____ at (21) a secondary school outside London. Melissa is very clever – she speaks three languages and also plays (22) _____. Yesterday, she took me to one of her favourite places – (23) _____. It is interesting, but too large! Anyhow, I bought you (24) a present in (25) the museum gift shop. It’s (26) a colourful map of (27) _____, with lots of pictures of interesting places. I’ll give it to you later!

Bye for now!

Ah Fai

(Adapted from *Longman Elect Grammar Book JS1* p.45)

1. The email above is incomplete. Below are the Chinese translations of the missing English phrases. Rewrite them in English, and fill in the blanks in the email with these phrases. An example has been done for you.

Chinese	English
(10) 二十八樓	the 28th floor
天	the sky
英國博物館	the British Museum
英國	the UK
泰晤士河	the River Thames
天氣	the weather
彈鋼琴	plays the piano
數學科主任	the Head of the Mathematics Department
倫敦地下鐵路系統	the Tube
最大的女兒	the eldest daughter
國會大廈	the Houses of Parliament

2. Read the expressions in (1) again. Answer the following questions.
- What article is used in each of the English phrases in the table above? (the)

- Comparing the Chinese and English expressions above, can you find any difference between English and Chinese? (There is no definite article in the Chinese expressions.)

- c. What meaning is expressed with the English article in (a)? (To express specificity / to specify an object)

3. Read the English expressions below.

- a. Translate the following English expressions into Chinese. How are the English and Chinese expressions similar to or different from each other?

English	Chinese	Similarity/Difference
(1) a really good hotel	(1) 一間很好的酒店	<p>The indefinite articles ('a/an') are used with singular countable nouns in English when they are first mentioned. This is similar to the use of '一' (one) in Chinese.</p> <p>You may omit "一" (one) in Chinese, but you cannot omit 'a'/'an' in English.</p>
(2) a Chinese restaurant	(2) 一間中式餐廳	
(3) an Italian restaurant	(3) 一間意大利式餐廳	
(4) a steak restaurant	(4) 一間牛排餐廳	
(8) a fitness centre	(8) 一所健身中心	
(9) an indoor swimming pool	(9) 一個室內游泳池	
(12) a great view	(12) 一個很好的景觀	
(18) a university student	(18) 一個大學生	
(21) a secondary school	(21) 一所中學	
(24) a present	(24) 一份禮物	
(26) a colourful map	(26) 一幅彩色的...地圖	

- b. What word can be used in English to express the meaning of ‘one’? (The indefinite articles ‘a’ and ‘an’.)

- c. Can the word be omitted in English? Can its Chinese equivalent be omitted? (No, it cannot be omitted in English. Its Chinese equivalent can be omitted.)

4. The following are some uses of English articles. For each use, find at least one example from the text. Put down the answers in the table below.

Articles and Uses	Example(s) (no.)
‘a’ or ‘an’ – the first time mention OR one of a group of people, things or places	1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 18, 21, 24, 26
‘the’ – nouns that have been identified	5, 7, 11
‘the’ – the specified person, thing or place OR a unique person, thing or place	6, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 25
‘the’ – geographical names and places (some countries, seas, oceans, rivers and mountains) or names of buildings	13, 14, 23, 27
‘the’ – musical instruments following the verb <i>play</i>	22
‘the’ – with ordinal numbers , e.g. <i>first, second, third</i>	10

5. McDull is visiting Maldives with his father. He has written an email to Ah Fai about his trip in Maldives. Your teacher will read the email twice. Listen carefully the first time your teacher reads it, and take notes below when your teacher reads the email again.

Take notes below when you are listening:

6. In groups of four, write the full email based on the notes taken. Pay special attention to the use of articles 'a', 'an' and 'the'.

Appendix 1

The email for dictogloss

Hi Ah Fai,

I learnt that you had a great time in the UK. Enjoy the rest of your trip!

My father and I arrived in Maldives yesterday. I'm in a holiday resort now. It's not an ordinary resort. It's a resort room built above the sea! This is the first time I have stayed in a resort room like this. There's no swimming pool in the resort because we can go swimming in the sea under our beds.

I really enjoy staying here. The beach is so beautiful. The sand is white and soft. The water is clear. I can spend my whole day lying on the beach.

Dad and I will go scuba diving tomorrow. We'll dive under the sea. Don't worry about our safety. A coach will be with us under the water. Hopefully, I can see many colorful fishes and even touch them!

I've sent you a postcard, and I'll bring you a souvenir.

Bye!

McDull