

PRACTICE DRILLS IN THE USE OF THE ARTICLES IN ENGLISH

PART TWO: THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

ANSWERS TO EXERCISES

2.1 THE: specific reference

1. Put **the** kettle on.
2. Switch **the** light on.
3. Light is needed to read by.
4. I'm going to **the** library.
5. Please pass **the** mustard.
6. I like mustard on sausages.
7. **The** doctor gave me this medicine.
8. **The** cat has fleas.
9. Cats kill birds.
10. **The** central heating has broken down.
11. In the tropics, you do not need central heating.
12. He was late at **the** office again.
13. **The** President was in office for four years.
14. **The** weather is depressing.
15. Some countries have climate; England has weather.
16. The marmalade is on **the** table next to **the** cornflakes.
17. Marmalade is not put on cornflakes.
18. **The** fridge is empty. I'll have to go to **the** supermarket.
19. I prefer open-air markets to supermarkets.
20. **The** car must go to **the** garage.

2.2 GETTING SPECIFIC INFORMATION: WHICH?

1. Which house do you live in?  
The one over there.
2. Which of those books is yours?  
The one on top.
3. Which restaurant do you go to?  
The one round the corner.
4. Which train do we catch?  
The 3.30.
5. Which road do we take?  
The Jersey Turnpike.
6. Which is your pen?  
The red ball-point.
7. Which shop can I buy a newspaper at?  
The one next to the post office.
8. Which hotel did you stay at?  
The Ritz.

9. What floor is your office on?  
The tenth.
10. Where can I catch a tube to the airport?  
The station in the shopping centre.
11. Which tube line?  
The Piccadilly.
12. Which of these cakes would you prefer?  
The one with icing.
13. Which is your favourite pub?  
The Pig and Whistle.
14. Where have they gone?  
The theatre. The pub. The end of the road.

2.3 ABSTRACTIONS

1. **The** policies of **the** government have been criticised by **the** press.
2. **The** truth of **the** matter is that **the** organisation is top-heavy.

The patience needed by the language student is considerable.  
Patience is needed by the language student.

The patience in the first sentence is a special sort of patience required by language students and (perhaps) by no one else.

The patience in the second sentence refers to the virtue of patience as it is generally experienced and enjoyed by anyone who has it.

2.6 OMISSION OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

Mrs Grummett suffers from...  
toothache, headache, halitosis, arthritis, rheumatism, osteoporosis, hypothermia, sciatica, alopecia, flat feet....

2.7 SUPERLATIVES

1. Van Gogh is the world's greatest artist.
2. My prime minister is the most misunderstood man in the western world.
3. Coca-Cola is the most popular soft drink.
4. English is the easiest language to learn.
5. The United States has the biggest. (The biggest what? Everything!)
6. My last holiday was the most enjoyable of my life.

7. Mrs Grummett's apple pie is the most delicious I have ever tasted.

8. Elvis Presley was the world's greatest rock singer.

9. Mr Grummett's prize pumpkin is the most enormous the world has ever seen.

## 2.8 EXERCISES: PRE-INTERMEDIATE

1. The little boy fell off the bicycle.

2. Children like sweets.

3. I have lost the book I took out of the library.

4. Cats love fish.

5. Smoking cigarettes is unhealthy.

6. Mr and Mrs Jones go to church on Sunday.

7. They go to the church round the corner.

8. Students read books.

9. The student was reading the book you gave him.

10. The world is coming to an end on Friday.

11. He goes to work while Mrs Jones stays at home.

12. Children go to school.

13. Mr Jones goes to the office while Mrs Jones stays at home.

14. They live in the house on the corner of the street.

15. The children go to the school over there.

16. Dogs bark, birds cheep, and cats mew.

17. The cat screeched when the dog bit it.

18. The bird flew away when the cat jumped.

19. The dog is called Fido; but not all dogs have names.

20. Dogs are not allowed in the park.

21. Were you able to get the books you needed from the library?

22. The Prime Minister likes to watch cricket, but the burdens of office prevent him doing so.

23. Take the Piccadilly bus on the other side of the street.

24. Men and women have to face many problems in living with each other.

25. What was the name of the shop that advertised discounts?

26. The wind in summer blows from the west.

27. Vegetarians suffer from wind.

28. The Amazon flows from the Andes to the Atlantic.

29. The Queen will speak on Christmas Day.

30. Mary wants to learn French before she goes to the Continent.

## INTERMEDIATE

1. In Paris, we stayed at the George V hotel, ate at Maxim's, and visited the Louvre.

2. The Smiths were supposed to come to the lunch we gave at the Ritz, but Mrs Smith phoned to say they had to take the young one to hospital.

3. Some buildings are world-famous: the Acropolis, Big Ben, the White House, the Taj Mahal, St Peter's, the Pyramids, Lenin's Tomb.

4. "Nation shall speak peace unto nation", was the suggested motto of the United Nations.

5. Experts were appointed to investigate the causes of the disease, known as yellow fever, which broke out among the American troops after the Spanish-American War.

6. Brevity is the soul of lingerie.