

A/An vs The Workbook - 100 Exercises

Instructions - fill out the 100 exercises below by choosing A vs The.

The answers and explanations are at the end. Also, below is a review of A vs The and how they work.



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Quick Review

A/An - Indefinite Article

- Use when referring to any one of something, not a specific item.
- Introduces something new or general.

"I saw a cat."

(Any cat, not a specific one.)

"She wants an apple."

(Any apple, not a particular one.)

The - Definite Article

- Use when referring to a specific item that is already known or clear in context.
- Refers to something unique or previously mentioned.

"I saw the cat again."

(A specific cat, already introduced or understood.)

"She ate the apple on the table."

(A specific apple that both people know about.)

Think of "A" as meaning "any one of something" and "The" as meaning "this specific one." For instance, "She wants a book" implies any book, but "She wants the book on the table" refers to a particular book.

A good trick is to use "A" the first time you mention something, and then use "The" when referring to it again.

Special Cases

Use "The" for things that are unique or universally known:

"The sun is shining." "The moon is out." "The sky is blue."

Sun, sky, and moon are universally known.

"I'm going to the beach." "Let's go to the park."

"I'm going to the store." "Go to the hospital."

For park, store, beach, and hospital - both people know which one already.

Use "A" when there's more than one possibility:

"I need a pen." "I need a doctor." "I need a phone."

(Any pen, phone or doctor doesn't matter which one.)

1. I saw ___ dog in my yard.
2. He picked up ___ book from the table.
3. She bought ___ apple for lunch.
4. We stayed at ___ hotel near the airport.
5. I need ___ pen to write this down.
6. I saw ___ movie last night.
7. They adopted ___ cat from the shelter.
8. She found ___ old coin in the attic.
9. We went to ___ zoo yesterday.
10. There was ___ spider in the bathroom.
11. He wants to buy ___ new phone.
12. We had ___ great time at the park.
13. She ordered ___ sandwich and a coffee.
14. They live in ___ apartment near the mall.
15. I found ___ interesting article online.
16. We saw ___ rainbow after the storm.
17. I met ___ doctor at the hospital.
18. There is ___ orange on the counter.
19. I heard ___ strange noise last night.
20. She's looking for ___ job in marketing.
21. He bought ___ jacket for the winter.
22. They took ___ taxi to the station.
23. There was ___ bird on the windowsill.
24. She read ___ book about history.
25. He stayed at ___ famous hotel in Tokyo.

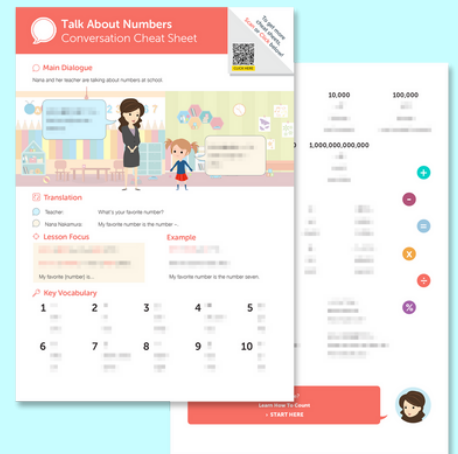
26. We saw ___ beautiful sunset on the beach.
27. I found ___ coin on the ground.
28. He gave me ___ good idea for the project.
29. We visited ___ museum downtown.
30. I need ___ spoon for my soup.
31. He drove past ___ school where he used to study.
32. We saw ___ famous painting in the gallery.
33. She's reading ___ newspaper from this morning.
34. I saw ___ eagle flying in the sky.
35. He sat on ___ chair near the window.
36. She stayed at ___ house by the lake.
37. We had dinner at ___ restaurant near our hotel.
38. I went to ___ doctor for a check-up.
39. We saw ___ tallest building in the city.
40. He sat in ___ back of the classroom.
41. They visited ___ Eiffel Tower on their trip.
42. We saw ___ strange bird we've never seen before.
43. He stayed at ___ same hotel as last year.
44. I bought ___ gift for my friend's birthday.
45. She left ___ umbrella in the car.
46. We took ___ train to the capital.
47. There was ___ knock on the door late at night.
48. He met ___ author of the book he's reading.
49. She's looking at ___ map of the city.
50. They saw ___ actor from their favorite movie.

51. We hiked up ___ mountain near the village.
52. He gave me ___ best advice I've ever received.
53. She opened ___ window to let fresh air in.
54. He parked near ___ entrance of the building.
55. They visited ___ small café they always go to.
56. She picked up ___ phone and dialed a number.
57. He saw ___ accident on his way to work.
58. We walked into ___ restaurant we had never been to before.
59. She put ___ book back on the shelf.
60. They walked towards ___ exit of the theater.

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Answers to part 1 - first 60 questions

Simple (1-40)

1. a (First mention of any dog)
2. the (A specific book on the table)
3. an (First mention, "apple" starts with a vowel sound)
4. a (Any hotel, not specific)
5. a (Any pen, not specific)
6. a (Any movie, not a specific one)
7. a (Any cat, first mention)
8. an (First mention, "old" starts with a vowel sound)
9. the (A specific zoo, known from context)
10. a (Any spider, not specific)
11. a (Any new phone, not specific)
12. a (General statement, not a specific time)
13. a (First mention, not specific)
14. an (First mention, "apartment" starts with a vowel sound)
15. an (First mention, "interesting" starts with a vowel sound)
16. a (First mention of any rainbow)
17. a (Any doctor, not a known one)
18. an (First mention, "orange" starts with a vowel sound)
19. a (First mention of any noise)
20. a (Any job, not a specific one)
21. a (Any jacket, not a specific one)
22. a (Any taxi, not a specific one)
23. a (Any bird, not specific)
24. a (Any book, not specific)
25. the (A specific famous hotel)
26. the (A specific sunset they saw)
27. a (Any coin, not specific)
28. a (Any idea, not specific)
29. the (A specific museum downtown)
30. a (Any spoon, not specific)

31 the (A specific school he studied at)

32 the (A specific famous painting)

33 the (A specific newspaper from this morning)

34 an (First mention, "eagle" starts with a vowel sound)

35 the (A specific chair near the window)

36 the (A specific house by the lake)

37 the (A specific restaurant near their hotel)

38 the (A specific doctor he went to)

39 the (Superlatives always take "the")

40 the (A specific location in the classroom)

Challenging (41-60)

41 the (A well-known landmark)

42 a (First mention of an unknown bird)

43 the (A specific hotel he stayed at before)

44 a (Any gift, not specific)

45 the (A specific umbrella left in the car)

46 the (A specific train to the capital)

47 a (Any knock, not a specific one)

48 the (A specific author of the book he's reading)

49 a (Any map, not specific)

50 the (A specific actor from their favorite movie)

51 a (First mention of any mountain)

52 the (Superlatives always take "the")

53 the (A specific window she opened)

54 the (A specific entrance of the building)

55 the (A specific café they always visit)

56 the (A specific phone she picked up)

57 an (First mention, "accident" starts with a vowel sound)

58 a (First mention, an unknown restaurant)

59 the (A specific book she put back)

60 the (A specific exit of the theater)

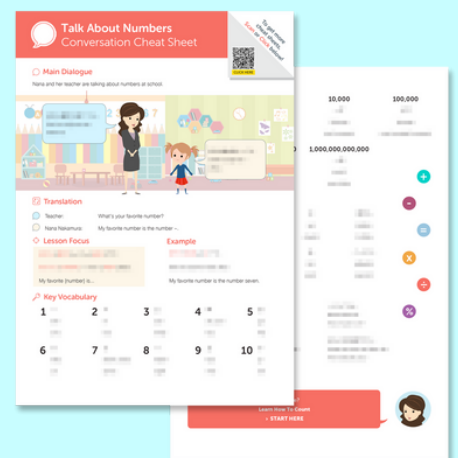
- 61 I saw ___ butterfly in the garden.
- 62 She picked up ___ phone and made a call.
- 63 He ordered ___ cup of tea at the café.
- 64 We stayed in ___ small cabin by the lake.
- 65 He found ___ key on the ground.
- 66 She gave me ___ flower from her garden.
- 67 They visited ___ new museum in town.
- 68 I heard ___ dog barking outside.
- 69 He sat in ___ front seat of the car.
- 70 She bought ___ ticket to the concert.
- 71 There was ___ beautiful painting on the wall.
- 72 I picked up ___ magazine from the table.
- 73 We took ___ bus to the airport.
- 74 He walked into ___ bookstore to buy a novel.
- 75 I saw ___ squirrel climbing a tree.
- 76 She found ___ interesting book at the library.
- 77 He gave me ___ apple from the basket.
- 78 They are staying in ___ apartment near the city center.
- 79 She left ___ note on the kitchen counter.
- 80 I saw ___ owl sitting on a branch.
- 81 He found ___ old letter in a drawer.
- 82 We had dinner at ___ restaurant near the river.
- 83 She gave me ___ glass of water.
- 84 I saw ___ rabbit in the backyard.
- 85 He needs ___ jacket because it's cold outside

- 86 We took ___ taxi to the train station.
- 87 She bought ___ chair for the dining room.
- 88 He saw ___ rainbow after the rainstorm.
- 89 There was ___ fly buzzing in the room.
- 90 She wrote ___ message on a piece of paper.
- 91 We saw ___ big whale while on a boat trip.
- 92 He went to ___ bank to withdraw some cash.
- 93 She took ___ umbrella because it was raining.
- 94 I found ___ pen on the floor.
- 95 There was ___ clock hanging on the wall.
- 96 We watched ___ sunset from the balcony.
- 97 He needs ___ new pair of shoes.
- 98 She saw ___ cat sleeping under the table.
- 99 We visited ___ castle during our trip.
- 100 He sat on ___ bench in the park.

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Answers to part 2 - 61 to 100

61 a (First mention of any butterfly)
 62 the (A specific phone she picked up)
 63 a (Any cup of tea, not specific)
 64 a (Any small cabin, not specific)
 65 a (Any key, not specific)
 66 a (Any flower, not specific)
 67 the (A specific new museum in town)
 68 a (First mention of any dog)
 69 the (A specific front seat in the car)
 70 a (Any ticket, not specific)
 71 a (First mention of a beautiful painting)
 72 a (Any magazine, not specific)
 73 the (A specific bus to the airport)
 74 a (Any bookstore, not specific)
 75 a (Any squirrel, not specific)
 76 an (First mention, "interesting" starts with a vowel sound)
 77 an (First mention, "apple" starts with a vowel sound)
 78 an (First mention, "apartment" starts with a vowel sound)
 79 a (Any note, not specific)
 80 an (First mention, "owl" starts with a vowel sound)
 81 an (First mention, "old" starts with a vowel sound)
 82 the (A specific restaurant near the river)
 83 a (Any glass of water, not specific)
 84 a (First mention of any rabbit)
 85 a (Any jacket, not specific)

86 a (Any taxi, not specific)
 87 a (Any chair, not specific)
 88 a (First mention of any rainbow)
 89 a (Any fly, not specific)
 90 a (Any message, not specific)
 91 a (First mention of any whale)
 92 the (A specific bank he went to)
 93 an (First mention, "umbrella" starts with a vowel sound)
 94 a (Any pen, not specific)
 95 a (First mention of any clock)
 96 the (A specific sunset they watched)
 97 a (Any new pair of shoes, not specific)
 98 a (First mention of any cat)
 99 the (A specific castle they visited)
 100 a (Any bench, not specific)

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