

Seminar 3B – Tasks / Worksheet 3

I. Questions

1. Generic reference - the following example is wrong. Explain why and rephrase the sentence in 3 possible ways:

~~Mobile phone~~ has become an inseparable part of modern life.

2. When does 'a' express *quantity*? What can be used instead of the article? Give examples:
3. When does 'a' refer to *measurement*? Give examples:
4. What are the rules for using articles (*a / an*) with illnesses? Give examples:
5. Sometimes the definite reference is derived from '*immediate situation*'. Give an example and explain what is extralinguistic context:
6. Explain the difference between anaphoric and cataphoric reference, give examples to support your explanation:

7. Explain the usage of articles in the following sentence:

When she tried to open the front door, she couldn't get the key into the lock.

8. 'Meals' are not used with articles, but not always. In what context can we say 'a dinner' and 'the dinner'? Give examples:

9. Explain why we say:

a) Her children go *to school*.

but b) Their mother went *to the school* to meet the headmaster.

10. What are the rules about using articles with various means of transport?

11. Why doesn't the underlined noun phrase in the following sentence contain an article? Give other examples like that:

He was elected President in 1879.

12. It is possible to use 'a' with 'days' in special circumstances, as in '*We met on a wet Monday in June*' But we have to say: '*See you on Thursday*.' Explain the difference.

II. PRACTICE

1. *Are the following sentences right or wrong? Correct the wrong ones:*

1. She is looking forward to being grandmother.
2. My sister loves horses.
3. You've made a very good progress.
4. She speaks very good English.
5. Do you prefer the town or the country?
6. The most birds can fly.
7. Life would be quieter without telephone.
8. You can't get there without car.
9. He stood in the doorway, his coat over an arm.
10. She died a few minutes after the accident.
11. What a beautiful shoes!
12. Police will interview all the witnesses.

2. *Fill in the article where necessary:*

1. He usually travels to work by _____ train.
He left the book on _____ train.
2. _____ children usually start walking around 1 year old.
_____ children arrived from school around 4 o'clock.
3. Do you like _____ dogs?
Have you fed _____ dogs?
4. I've been to _____ doctor.
_____ doctor must like people.
5. I have met _____ Anthony Hopkins in Prague.
What, not _____ Anthony Hopkins?
6. Why has _____ light gone out?
Nothing can travel faster than _____ light.
7. I'm studying _____ life of Beethoven.
_____ life is complicated.
8. Do you know that Jane is in _____ hospital? She's had a car accident.
I left my coat in _____ hospital when I was visiting Jane.

9. We have five English lessons on _____ Tuesday.
She died on _____ Tuesday after the accident.
10. Rome is lovely in _____ spring.
I worked very hard in _____ summer that year.
11. _____ Queen Elizabeth had dinner with _____ President Kennedy.
_____ Queen had dinner with _____ President.
12. He was elected _____ President in 1985.
I want to see _____ President.
13. We had _____ lunch in a very nice restaurant.
We had _____ very nice lunch there.
14. I often listen to _____ music.
The film wasn't very good but I liked _____ music.
15. _____ sugar isn't very good for you.
Can you pass me _____ sugar, please?
16. I don't like driving at _____ night.
She kept us awake all through _____ night.
17. _____ flowers really brighten up a room.
_____ flowers you brought are lovely.
18. We're going in _____ morning.
I've had _____ terrible morning.
19. She usually stays in _____ bed till late at the weekend.
The socks you're looking for are over there on _____ bed.
20. I'll always be grateful for _____ advice he gave me.
I asked my father for _____ advice about the problem.

3. Fill in **a/ an** or **some** where necessary. If no word is necessary, leave the space empty (-):

1. I've seen _____ good films recently.
2. What's wrong with you? Have you got _____ headache?
3. I know a lot of people. Most of them are _____ students.
4. When I was _____ child, I used to be very shy.
5. Do you collect _____ stamps?
6. What _____ beautiful garden!
7. _____ birds, for example the penguin, cannot fly.

8. I've been walking for three hours. I've got _____ sore feet.
9. I don't feel very well this morning. I've got _____ sore throat.
10. I don't believe him. He's _____ liar. He is always telling _____ lies.

4. Put in **a/ an** or **the**:

1. a) This house is very nice. Has it got _____ garden?
 b) It's a beautiful day. Let's sit in _____ garden.
 c) I like living in this house but it's a pity that _____ garden is so small.
2. a) Can you recommend _____ good restaurant?
 b) We had dinner in _____ very nice restaurant.
 c) We had dinner in _____ most expensive restaurant in town.
3. a) She has _____ French name but in fact she's English, not French.
 b) What's _____ name of that man we met yesterday?
 c) We stayed in a very nice hotel - I can't remember _____ name now.
4. a) There isn't _____ airport near where I live. _____ nearest airport is 70 miles away.
 b) Our plane was delayed. We had to wait at _____ airport for three hours.
 c) Excuse me, please. Can you tell me how to get to _____ airport?

5. Put in **the** or **a / an** where necessary. If no word is necessary, leave the space empty (-):

1. Where did you have _____ lunch? – We went to _____ restaurant.
2. Did you have _____ nice holiday? – Yes, it was _____ best holiday I've ever had.
3. Do you often listen to _____ radio? – No, in fact I haven't got _____ radio.
4. Do you go to _____ cinema very often? – No, I watch a lot of films on _____ television.
5. What did you have for _____ breakfast this morning? – Nothing. I never eat _____ breakfast.

6. Complete the sentences with the word given. Use **the** where necessary:

1. **school**

- a) Every term parents are invited to _____ to meet the teachers.
- b) Why aren't your children at _____ today? Are they ill?
- c) When he was younger, Ted hated _____.
- d) What time does _____ start in the mornings in your country?
- e) How do your children get home from _____? By bus? –
 No, they walk. _____ isn't very far.
- f) What sort of job does Jenny want to do when she leaves _____?
- g) There were some people waiting outside _____ to meet their children.

2. **university**

- a) In your country, do many people go to _____?
- b) If you want to get a degree, you normally have to study at _____.
- c) This is only a small town but _____ is the biggest in the country.

3. **hospital**

- a) Nora works as a cleaner at _____ hospital.
- b) When Ann was ill, we all went to _____.
- c) My brother has always been very healthy. He's never been in _____.
- d) Peter was injured in an accident and was kept in _____ for a few days.

4. **church**

- a) John's mother is a regular churchgoer. She goes to _____ every Sunday.
- b) John himself doesn't go _____.
- c) John went to _____ to take some photographs of the building.

5. **prison**

- a) In many places people are in _____ because of their political opinions.
- b) The other day the fire brigade were called to _____ to put out a fire.
- c) The judge decided to fine the man £ 500 instead of sending him to _____.

6. **home, work, bed**

- a) I like to read in _____ before I go to sleep.
- b) It's nice to travel around but there's no place like _____!
- c) Shall we meet after _____ tomorrow evening?
- d) If I'm feeling tired, I go to _____ early.
- e) What time do you usually start _____ in the morning?
- f) The economic situation is very bad. Many people are out of _____.

7. **sea**

- a) There's a nice view from the window. You can see _____.
- b) It was a long voyage. We were at _____ for four weeks.
- c) I love swimming in _____.