

### SEMINAR 3 – ARTICLES with COMMON NOUNS

**QUESTIONS** (to answer after you have studied the seminar handout carefully)

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. Give examples of your own (in sentences) where 'a' expresses:
  - a) quantity
  - b) price
  - c) distance
  - d) frequency
3. Compare the use of 'a' and 'the' in the following sentences. What's the difference in meaning:
  - a) *A house* on the corner is for sale.
  - b) *The house* on the corner is for sale.
4. Some exclamatory sentences contain 'a', others don't. Give examples.
5. What are the rules for using articles (*a / an*) with illnesses? Give examples:
6. Sometimes the *definite reference* is derived from 'immediate situation'. Give an example and explain what is extralinguistic context:
7. Explain the difference between *anaphoric* and *cataphoric* reference, give examples to support your explanation:
8. 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.

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

10. Explain why we say:

a) Her children go *to school*.      but      b) Their mother went *to the school* to meet the headmaster.

Which other nouns are like 'school'?

11. Do we use articles with various means of transport? Give examples.

12. Give examples of the so-called 'parallel structures':