Section 2: Known and Unknown

Section 2 Part 1: Explanation

We use ‘a / an’ (for singular countable nouns) when we think the listener or reader WON’T know which thing or person we are talking about. We use ‘the’ when we think the person listening WILL know which thing or person we mean.

It’s not important if the person who is speaking knows which one. The important thing is if the person who is listening knows or not. For example:

- I bought a blue sweater yesterday (the speaker knows which sweater, but the listener doesn’t, so we use ‘a’).
- We went to a lovely café (the speaker knows which one but the listener doesn’t, so we use ‘a’).

Sometimes the person who is speaking doesn’t know which one exactly (and neither does the listener). Instead, the speaker is talking about any member of a certain group – it doesn’t matter which one. We still use ‘a/an’, because the listener doesn’t know which one. For example:

- I’d like a cup of tea (the speaker doesn’t know which one, neither does the listener. It doesn’t matter which particular cup of tea).
- I need to see a doctor (any doctor, neither the listener nor the speaker are thinking about a particular doctor).
- Could you pass me a pen please? (any pen, the speaker doesn’t know which one).

On the other hand, we CAN’T use ‘a / an’ with uncountable or plural nouns. If the listener doesn’t know which plural or uncountable noun, we use ‘no article’.

- I’d like chips.
- Get me coffee.

(In this case we often use ‘some’. See Appendix 3)
Remember:

- If the listener knows which one, we use ‘the’ (with any kind of noun).
- If the listener doesn’t know which one:
  - we use ‘a /an’ with singular countable nouns.
  - we use ‘no article’ with plural countable nouns or uncountable nouns.

Section 2 Part 2: Known because we already talked about it

The listener might know which one we mean because we’ve already talked about the thing in our conversation (or piece of writing).

- I bought an apple and an orange. The apple was delicious.

We use ‘an apple’ and ‘an orange’ at first because we think the person listening won’t know which apple or which orange we are talking about.

But the second (or third or fourth…) time we talk about something, we can use ‘the’ because the listener knows which one. He or she knows because we’ve already said which one – it’s the apple that I bought yesterday and not another apple.

Exercise 1

Put in ‘a’ or ‘the’:

1. He gave me ______ clock and ______ picture as a wedding present. ______ clock belonged to his grandmother.
2. I took ______ suitcase and ______ backpack on holiday. ______ suitcase was much more useful.
3. John broke ______ vase when he was in Marie’s house. ______ vase was over 100 years old.
4. Julie read ______ book and ______ magazine. She said ______ book was quite boring though.
5. I washed ______ white shirt and ______ red top together. Now ______ shirt is pink.

Click here for answers

We can’t use ‘a’ or ‘an’ with uncountable nouns or plural countable nouns (see Appendix 2 if you need more information about countable and uncountable nouns). In these cases, if we are introducing something for the first time that our listener doesn’t know about, we use ‘no article’, not ‘a/an’. (We can also use ‘some’ or another word that tells us the amount depending on the situation: see Appendix 3)

- I bought beef, vegetables and milk. The beef was very good.
- Her house is full of DVDs and books. The books are mostly about Africa.
How to Use ‘A’ and ‘The’

Exercise 2

Choose ‘a/an’ or ‘no article’ (Ø):

(Remember, all of these are being introduced for the first time and we think the
listener doesn’t know which one(s) we mean. We use ‘a/an’ with singular uncountable
nouns, and ‘no article’ with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns)

1. She gave us _______ bread and _______ orange juice. The orange juice was
delicious.
2. I got _______ book and _______ magazine from the library.
3. We watched _______ films and _______ TV programmes all night. The films
were better.
4. She offered us _______ piece of cake or _______ biscuits.
5. We had _______ broccoli and _______ cheese for dinner.
6. I dropped _______ glass and two bowls. They all broke.
7. We cooked _______ spaghetti and _______ bacon. John had bought the
spaghetti in Rome.
8. She has _______ black umbrella and I have _______ blue one. The blue one is
much bigger.
9. We had _______ piece of pie and _______ potatoes for lunch. The pie was
very good indeed.
10. I took _______ bottle of wine and _______ box of chocolates to the party.
11. I drank _______ cup of coffee and ate _______ biscuits. The biscuits had been
made by my mother.
12. She returned _______ shoes and _______ dress to the shop because they were
damaged.
13. Ruth has _______ son and _______ two daughters. One of the daughters is in
my class.
14. They drank _______ water and _______ tea.
15. At the weekend, I crashed my bike into _______ car.
16. I moved into _______ new flat last month. It’s really lovely.
17. Could you get _______ milk and _______ newspaper when you are at the
shop?
18. I had _______ pasta and _______ glass of wine last night. The pasta was
really good.
19. I spilled _______ coffee on the sofa and I dropped _______ jug of milk on the
floor.
20. John has _______ orange chairs and _______ green carpet!

Click here for answers

This is also true when we introduce something and then use a different word to talk
about the same thing:

• A female student came in. The girl… (‘The girl’ is the same person as ‘a
female student’ so we have already introduced her).
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Section 2 Part 3: Known because we mentioned something connected

We can also use ‘the’ to talk about things which we haven’t talked about directly in the previous conversation but which we can understand from something else we’ve said. In the example below, we know that houses usually have doors:

- We arrived at a house. The door was open.
  
  (In this case we know ‘the door’ is the door of the house we’ve just talked about. We think the listener will understand which door we mean, but we use ‘a’ when we introduce the house because we don’t think the listener will know which house we mean).

- I wanted to buy a new coat but the price was too high.
  
  (When you buy something, there’s usually a price, so we think the listener will understand that we mean the price of the coat).

Exercise 3

Put in ‘a/an’ or ‘the’:

1. They stopped for ______ picnic. However, ______ lemonade was warm.
2. We had ______ lovely meal together. Julie brought ______ dessert.
3. I bought ______ new dress, but I was annoyed to find that ______ zip was broken.
4. I sat down on ______ chair but ______ leg suddenly broke.
5. We went to ______ party. ______ music was very loud.

Click here for answers

Section 2 Part 4: The listener / reader might know which one we mean because it’s obvious from the physical situation near us

Sometimes the listener knows which one we mean because of the place we are in. We might be able to see the thing we are talking about. For example:

- Pass me the glass (if there’s only one glass we can see, then the listener knows which one, because there’s no other choice).
On the other hand, if there is more than one, the listener probably doesn’t know which one I mean, so I have to use ‘a / an’:

- Please close the window (only one is open).
- Please close a window (three are open: I want you to close any one of them).

If there is more than one and we want them all, we can still use ‘the’:

- Close the windows (there are three windows open, but I want you to close all of them).

The situation we are in could also be something bigger, like the town, city or country we are in. For example:

- You can buy apples in the supermarket (the supermarket in our town).
- The library is on Main Street (the library in our town).

Exercise 4

Put in ‘a/an’ or ‘the’ (this exercise only has singular countable nouns)

1. Could you pass me ______ book (there’s only one).
3. I’d like ______ spoon (there are lots in the drawer).
4. I’d like ______ spoon (there’s only one on the table).
5. She took ______ chair from the dining room (there are lots of chairs in the dining room).
6. She took ______ chair from the dining room (there’s only one chair in the dining room).
7. He handed me ______ fork (there was only one).
8. He handed me ______ fork (there were several).
9. He picked me up at ______ station (there is one station in our town).
10. He picked me up at ______ station (I can’t remember which station).
11. Would you mind opening ______ door? (I mean the door of the room we are in).
12. He walked into ______ door and hit his head (The listener doesn’t know which door – it could be any door).
13. She fell into ______ river (there’s one river in our town).
14. She fell into ______ river (the listener doesn’t know which river – it could be any river in the country).
15. I drank ______ cup of coffee (she made me one cup of coffee).
16. Could you buy me ______ cup of coffee? (any one is fine).
17. We met in ______ bookshop (there is only one bookshop in our town).
18. We met in ______ bookshop (it could be any bookshop).
19. I had dinner in ______ Chinese restaurant (there’s one near our house).
20. I had dinner in ______ Chinese restaurant (there are hundreds in London and you don’t know which one).

Click here for answers
How to Use ‘A’ and ‘The’

Exercise 5

Put in ‘the’ or ‘no article’ (Ø) (this exercise only has uncountable and plural nouns):

1. Can you pass _______ salt? (I mean salt which is on the table where we are sitting).
2. Could you get _______ salt when you are at the supermarket? (any salt is okay).
3. Earlier today I bought _______ wine. (you don’t know which wine).
4. Please put _______ wine in the fridge (there’s a bottle of wine on the table).
5. I bought _______ apples earlier (there is a bowl of apples on the table).
6. Can you get _______ apples for the pie? (any apples are okay).
7. _______ water doesn’t taste good (I mean the water in our flat).
8. She dropped _______ water all over the floor (I don’t know what particular water).
9. Can you put _______ boxes on this shelf? (any boxes – at the moment I’m not thinking of any particular ones).
10. Can you pick up _______ boxes (there are four boxes on the floor and I want you to pick up all of them).

Click here for answers

Section 2 Part 5: It’s obvious which one we mean because we say so in the sentence

Sometimes the listener knows which one because we make it clear in our sentence, by using certain grammar or vocabulary.

1: Relative Clauses

We can use different grammatical structures to say which one we mean. One which we often use is a relative clause. For example:

- John knows the girl who I met yesterday

Remember, it needs to be clear which one we mean from the relative clause. If it’s not obvious, and the listener doesn’t know which one we’re talking about, we can still use ‘a’ even if we use a relative clause. For example:

- I saw John talking to a girl who I met last night.
  (Even though there is a relative clause, we still don’t know exactly which girl – I met several girls last night, so we can use ‘a’).
- I saw John talking to the girl who I met last night.
  (I met only one girl last night).
2: Prepositional Phrases

We often use prepositional phrases (on the table, by the station) to say which one we mean. For example:

- Pass me the book on the table (there’s only one book on the table, so it’s clear which one we mean).
- I often go to the supermarket by the station.

Be careful – we only use ‘the’ with a prepositional phrase if it tells us which one.

Exercise 6

Put in ‘the’ if the listener knows which one from the rest of the sentence, use ‘a/an’ if the listener doesn’t know:

1. Let’s meet in _______ café.
2. Let’s meet in _______ café next to my flat.
3. Do you want _______ cup of coffee I’ve just bought?
4. Do you want _______ cup of coffee?
5. John’s going out with _______ French girl we met last week.
6. John’s going out with _______ French girl.
7. I bought _______ new laptop.
8. I bought _______ laptop that I told you about.
9. Pass me _______ glass next to your hand, please.
10. Pass me _______ glass, please.
11. Julie crashed her bike into _______ tree.
12. Julie crashed her bike into _______ only tree in her garden.
13. She ate _______ cake I had just finished making.
14. She ate _______ cake.
15. He played _______ piece of music.
16. He played _______ piece of music that we were discussing yesterday.
17. Can you give me _______ piece of paper on my desk?
18. Can you give me _______ piece of paper?
19. David had dinner in _______ restaurant.
20. David had dinner in _______ restaurant he usually goes to.

Click here for answers

3: ‘The back of’ etc

Another grammatical structure that tells us which one is ‘of’ phrases that talk about a certain part of something. Because something only has one back, for example, we use ‘the’ when we talk about it, as the listener must know which one we mean. For example:
How to Use ‘A’ and ‘The’

the back of I wrote her number on the back of my notebook.
the front of The front of the dress was blue.
the middle of She sat down in the middle of the floor.
the top of He stood at the top of the stairs and waited.
the bottom of The answers are at the bottom of the page.
the edge of I tripped on the edge of the pavement.
the beginning of At the beginning of the book, she is living in Paris.
the end of They got married at the end of the film.
the height of What’s the height of Mount Fuji?
the length of He ran the length of the football pitch.
the size of I was amazed at the size of his house.
the weight of I can’t guess the weight of the cake.
the title of What’s the title of the film we saw last week?
the price of The price of flats here is very high.

4: Superlatives

Another grammatical structure that tells us which one is a superlative.

If we use a superlative (the tallest student in the class) then there is obviously only one (or one group) of the thing we are talking about. There is one student who is the tallest in the class, and because it’s clear which one we mean, we can use ‘the’:

- She’s the most beautiful girl I’ve ever seen.
- It’s the best café in London.
- John and Lisa are the most intelligent students here.
- This bowl is the biggest.

5: Certain Adjectives

There are some adjectives which are often used to talk about only one thing (or one group of things). For example, if I say ‘the first bus’ I use ‘the’ because only one bus can be first, so the listener knows which one I mean.

Here’s a list of some adjectives we often use with ‘the’:

same He was wearing the same t-shirt as me.
next Let’s get on the next train that comes.
last We caught the last bus home.
first / second / third … She bought the first dress she found.
only I’d like the second cake on the shelf.
right It’s the right answer.
wrong* I’m afraid that’s the wrong bottle.
usual We went to the usual restaurant.
I know it is a bit strange to talk about the wrong answer when there are usually lots of wrong answers to any question, but we do!

(We don’t use ‘the’ when we are using these words alone to order ideas in a sentence. First, you mix the flour and the water. Next, …)

**6: ‘Next’ and ‘last’ with time expressions:**

However, be careful about ‘next’ and ‘last’ when they are used with time expressions – in this case they usually don’t take ‘the’. When ‘next week’ means ‘the week after this one’ we don’t need ‘the’:

- I’m going to visit my brother next week (NOT: the next week)

When ‘last week’ means ‘the week before this one’, we don’t need ‘the’:

- I saw David last week (NOT: the last week)

This is the same for similar expressions like: ‘next month’, ‘next year’, ‘last month’, ‘last year’, ‘last night’, ‘last summer’, ‘next winter’. It’s also true with days, like ‘next Tuesday’, ‘last Sunday’)

- I saw the new film last month (not: the last month)
- We’re going on holiday next month (not: the next month)
- She will graduate next year (not: the next year)
- I went on holiday to Bolivia last summer (not: the last summer)

(‘Last’ has two meanings. It can mean, ‘coming at the end’ (opposite of first) – in this case, we need ‘the’, as only one thing (or group of things) can come at the end. Second, ‘last’ can mean ‘previous / the one before today’ like last week, last month. In this case we use ‘no article’)

**Exercise 7**

Decide if we need ‘the’ or ‘no article’ (Ø):

1. I’m going on holiday _______ next week.
2. We’ll get on _______ next bus.
3. She has _______ same t-shirt as me.
4. I arrived in New York _______ last month.
5. We ate in _______ usual place.
6. Shall we meet at _______ same time tomorrow?
7. I can’t believe he ate _______ last chocolate!
8. I’m going on holiday _______ next Friday.
9. This is _______ first time I’ve been to Europe.
10. She started college _______ last year.
11. I managed to get _______ only taxi there.
12. That’s _______ right answer!
13. We went to the cinema _______ last Sunday.
14. He’s always getting _______ wrong idea.
15. What are you doing _______ next month?
16. She asked directions from _______ next person she saw.
17. We didn’t see John at all _______ last week.
18. He’s _______ only person from Colombia in his office.
19. She arrived at the station early, and got on _______ first train to Cambridge.
20. Call me _______ next Tuesday.

Click here for answers

Two more points:

1: With ‘last / next + time’ we can use either ‘the’ or ‘no article’:
   • (The) next time we go out, I’ll bring my umbrella.
   • (The) last time I saw her, she looked really tired.

2: When we use ‘in’ with ‘next’, like ‘in the next year’, we use ‘the’, and the phrase has a different meaning.
   • Next year = the year after this one:
     I’m going to Russia next year.
   BUT:
   • In the next year = between now and one year from now:
     I’ll finish my thesis in the next year. (If today is the 1st of June 2011, I will finish between now and the 1st of June 2012).

In the same way:

• Next week = the week after this one:
  Can we meet next week?

BUT:

• In the next week = between now and one week from now:
  She’ll arrive in the next week, but I’m not sure exactly when. (If today is Tuesday, she will arrive at some time between now and next Tuesday).
Section 2 Part 6: Unique things

In the section about the physical situation, we saw that we can use ‘the’ when the listener knows which one we mean because of the room or building or town we are in. If there is only one of something in the room, for example, we can use ‘the’ because it’s clear which one we mean. For the same reason, we can use ‘the’ with nouns when there is only one in the country we are in.

- The Queen was on television yesterday (if I am in England when I say this, you will understand that I mean the Queen of England).

- I think we should support the government (I mean the government in our country).

Sometimes, there is only one of something on Earth, or even in the universe. We use ‘the’ with these words, as it’s clear which one we mean. For example, we use ‘the’ with ‘sun’ as there’s only one sun (close to us, anyway!) and everybody knows which one we mean.

- The sun was very hot that day.

In the same way, we often use ‘the’ if there is only one group of something:

- I loved learning about the planets in school.

Here is a list of some words that are often used like this:

1. the sun Don’t look directly at the sun.
2. the moon She could see the moon from her bedroom window.
3. the stars The stars are difficult to see clearly.
4. the sky The sky was a lovely shade of blue.
5. the universe The universe is vast.
6. the planets I would love to visit the planets.
7. the world It’s the best city in the world.
8. the solar system The alien travelled to the edge of the solar system.
9. the earth The earth looks small from space.
10. the equator The equator goes through Ecuador.
11. the north pole The north pole is surrounded by snow.
12. the past It must have been difficult to live without electricity in the past.
13. the future Can you imagine what life will be like in the future?
14. the present There’s no time like the present.
15. the internet I looked the word up on the internet.
16. the environment We need to think about protecting the environment.
We also use ‘the’ with time periods (like ‘the twentieth century’) because there is only one of them. We say ‘the sixties’, ‘the eighteenth century’, ‘the Middle Ages’:

- They were the most popular pop group in **the** sixties.
- What was it like to live in **the** Middle Ages?
- The French revolution was in **the** eighteenth century.

We also usually use ‘the’ with grammatical terms such as ‘the definite article’, ‘the past simple tense’ and so on – we imagine that there is only one of these things (at least in the language we are talking about).

- Put these sentences into **the** present tense.
- You need to use **the** definite article if the listener knows which one you mean.

**Section 2 Summary:**

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Exercise 8: Section 2 Review A

Choose ‘a / an’, ‘the’ or ‘no article’ (Ø):

1. I had _______ cup of coffee for breakfast.
2. I met a man and a woman last night. _______ woman was from Mexico.
3. She bought _______ new laptop.
4. I had _______ bread and cheese for lunch.
5. It’s not good for your eyes to look directly at _______ sun.
6. Where’s _______ shop that John works in?
7. Meet me _______ next week.
8. They went for a walk and looked at _______ moon.
9. It’s on _______ back of the page.
10. She gave me _______ last chocolate.
11. Could you pass me _______ glass (any one is fine).
12. She bought _______ laptop that her brother recommended.
13. I had lunch in a lovely restaurant. _______ main course was excellent.
14. She arrives in New York _______ next month.
15. Julie has _______ sister and two brothers.
16. Please pass me _______ coffee on the table (there is one coffee and one table near us)
17. I need _______ book (there is one book near us)
18. John is _______ tallest in his family.
19. He ate _______ chips at the restaurant.
20. She wants to sit in _______ armchair (there is only one armchair in this room)
21. We rented _______ car on holiday.
22. She walked into a beautiful house. _______ kitchen was near _______ front door.
23. I’d really like _______ new computer.
24. She got _______ new shoes last weekend.
25. My brother is in _______ middle of the photo.

Click here for answers

Exercise 9: Section 2 Review B

Choose ‘a / an’, ‘the’ or ‘no article’ (Ø):

1. William is _______ cutest baby in London.
2. Let’s start again from _______ beginning of the song.
3. I bought _______ new dress.
4. We got in _______ first taxi.
5. Can I borrow _______ pen? It doesn’t matter which one.
6. Which is your favourite city in _______ world?
7. He was wearing _______ same t-shirt as his brother.
8. We visited Canada _______ last year.
9. I’ll meet you in _______ usual place.
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10. This is ________ only dress I could find.
11. She lives near ________ equator, so the weather is very hot.
12. He bought a pen and some paper in the shop. ________ pen was red.
13. She crashed her bicycle into a car, and broke ________ windscreen.
14. Could you give me ________ piece of paper?
15. Everest is ________ highest mountain in the world.
16. She came to San Francisco ________ last December.
17. I had ________ cup of tea and ________ biscuit. They were both delicious.
18. I’ll see you ________ next Tuesday.
19. Please pass ________ salt (there is one salt cellar on our table).
20. Have you read ________ book that I lent you?
21. I’m going to look on ________ internet.
22. I love looking at ________ planets on a clear night.
23. We ate ________ sandwiches and drank ________ water.
24. I bought a new dress. It has a pattern on ________ sleeves.
25. Journalists often talk about ________ environment these days.

Click here for answers
How to Use ‘A’ and ‘The’

Answers to Section 2

Answers to Exercise 1:

1. He gave me a clock and a picture as a wedding present. The clock belonged to his grandmother.
2. I took a suitcase and a backpack on holiday. The suitcase was much more useful.
3. John broke a vase when he was in Marie’s house. The vase was over 100 years old.
4. Julie read a book and a magazine. She said the book was quite boring though.
5. I washed a white shirt and a red top together. Now the shirt is pink.

Return to Exercise 1

Answers to Exercise 2:

1. She gave us Ø bread and Ø orange juice. The orange juice was delicious.
2. I got a book and a magazine from the library.
3. We watched Ø films and Ø TV programmes all night. The films were better.
4. She offered us a piece of cake or Ø biscuits.
5. We had Ø broccoli and Ø cheese for dinner.
6. I dropped a glass and two bowls. They all broke.
7. We cooked Ø spaghetti and Ø bacon. John had bought the spaghetti in Rome.
8. She has a black umbrella and I have a blue one. The blue one is much bigger.
9. We had a piece of pie and Ø potatoes for lunch. The pie was very good indeed.
10. I took a bottle of wine and a box of chocolates to the party.
11. I drank a cup of coffee and ate Ø biscuits. The biscuits had been made by my mother.
12. She returned Ø shoes and a dress to the shop because they were damaged.
13. Ruth has a son and Ø two daughters. One of the daughters is in my class.
14. They drank Ø water and Ø tea.
15. At the weekend, I crashed my bike into a car.
16. I moved into a new flat last month. It’s really lovely.
17. Could you get Ø milk and a newspaper when you are at the shop?
18. I had Ø pasta and a glass of wine last night. The pasta was really good.
19. I spilled Ø coffee on the sofa and I dropped a jug of milk on the floor.
20. John has Ø orange chairs and Ø green carpet!

Return to Exercise 2

Answers to Exercise 3:

1. They stopped for a picnic. However, the lemonade was warm.
2. We had a lovely meal together. Julie brought the dessert.
3. I bought a new dress, but I was annoyed to find that the zip was broken.
4. I sat down on a chair but the leg suddenly broke.
5. We went to a party. The music was very loud.

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Answers to Exercise 4:

1. Could you pass me the book (there’s only one).
3. I’d like a spoon (there are lots in the drawer).
4. I’d like the spoon (there’s only one on the table).
5. She took a chair from the dining room (there are lots of chairs in the dining room)
6. She took the chair from the dining room (there’s only one chair in the dining room)
7. He handed me the fork (there was only one)
8. He handed me a fork (there were several)
9. He picked me up at the station (there is one station in our town)
10. He picked me up at a station (I can’t remember where the station was)
11. Would you mind opening the door? (I mean the door of the room we are in)
12. He walked into a door and hit his head (The listener doesn’t know which door – it could be any door)
13. She fell into the river (there’s one river in our town)
14. She fell into a river (the listener doesn’t know which river – it could be any river in the country)
15. I drank the cup of coffee (she made me one cup of coffee)
16. Could you buy me a cup of coffee? (any one is fine)
17. We met in the bookshop (there is only one bookshop in our town)
18. We met in a bookshop (it could be any bookshop)
19. I had dinner in the Chinese restaurant (there’s one near our house)
20. I had dinner in a Chinese restaurant (there are hundreds in London and you don’t know which one)

Answers to Exercise 5:

1. Can you pass the salt? (I mean salt which is on the table where we are sitting)
2. Could you get Ø salt when you are at the supermarket? (any salt is okay)
3. Earlier today I bought Ø wine. (you don’t know which wine)
4. Please put the wine in the fridge (there’s a bottle of wine on the table)
5. I bought the apples earlier (there is a bowl of apples on the table)
6. Can you get Ø apples for the pie? (any apples are okay)
7. The water doesn’t taste good (I mean the water in our flat)
8. She dropped Ø water all over the floor (I don’t know what particular water)
9. Can you put Ø boxes on this shelf? (any boxes – at the moment I’m not thinking of any particular ones)
10. Can you pick up the boxes (there are four boxes on the floor and I want you to pick up all of them)

Answers to Exercise 6:
How to Use ‘A’ and ‘The’

1. Let’s meet in a café.
2. Let’s meet in the café next to my flat.
3. Do you want the cup of coffee I’ve just bought?
4. Do you want a cup of coffee?
5. John’s going out with the French girl we met last week.
6. John’s going out with a French girl.
7. I bought a new laptop.
8. I bought the laptop that I told you about.
9. Pass me the glass next to your hand, please.
10. Pass me a glass, please.
11. Julie crashed her bike into a tree.
12. Julie crashed her bike into the only tree in her garden.
13. She ate the cake I had just finished making.
14. She ate a cake.
15. He played a piece of music.
16. He played the piece of music that we were discussing yesterday.
17. Can you give me the piece of paper on my desk?
18. Can you give me a piece of paper?
19. David had dinner in a restaurant.
20. David had dinner in the restaurant he usually goes to.

Return to Exercise 6

Answers to Exercise 7:

1. I’m going on holiday Ø next week.
2. We’ll get on the next bus.
3. She has the same t-shirt as me.
4. I arrived in New York Ø last month.
5. We ate in the usual place.
6. Shall we meet at the same time tomorrow?
7. I can’t believe he ate the last chocolate!
8. I’m going on holiday Ø next Friday.
9. This is the first time I’ve been to Europe.
10. She started college Ø last year.
11. I managed to get the only taxi there.
12. That’s the right answer!
13. We went to the cinema Ø last Sunday.
14. He’s always getting the wrong idea.
15. What are you doing Ø next month?
16. She asked directions from the next person she saw.
17. We didn’t see John at all Ø last week.
18. He’s the only person from Colombia in his office.
19. She arrived at the station early, and got on the first train to Cambridge.
20. Call me Ø next Tuesday.

Return to Exercise 7

Answers to Exercise 8 (Section 2 Review 1):
1. I had a cup of coffee for breakfast.
2. I met a man and a woman last night. The woman was from Mexico.
3. She bought a new laptop.
4. I had Ø bread and cheese for lunch.
5. It’s not good for your eyes to look directly at the sun.
6. Where’s the shop that John works in?
7. Meet me Ø next week.
8. They went for a walk and looked at the moon.
9. It’s on the back of the page.
10. She gave me the last chocolate.
11. Could you pass me a glass (any one is fine).
12. She bought the laptop that her brother recommended.
13. I had lunch in a lovely restaurant. The main course was excellent.
14. She arrives in New York Ø next month.
15. Julie has a sister and two brothers.
16. Please pass me the coffee on the table (there is one coffee and one table near us)
17. I need the book (there is one book near us)
18. John is the tallest in his family.
19. He ate Ø chips at the restaurant.
20. She wants to sit in the armchair (there is only one armchair in this room)
21. We rented a car on holiday.
22. She walked into a beautiful house. The kitchen was near the front door.
23. I’d really like a new computer.
24. She got Ø new shoes last weekend.
25. My brother is in the middle of the photo.

Return to Exercise 8

Answers to Exercise 9 (Section 2 Review 2):

1. William is the cutest baby in London.
2. Let’s start again from the beginning of the song.
3. I bought a new dress.
4. We got in the first taxi.
5. Can I borrow a pen? It doesn’t matter which one.
6. Which is your favourite city in the world?
7. He was wearing the same t-shirt as his brother.
8. We visited Canada Ø last year.
9. I’ll meet you in the usual place.
10. This is the only dress I could find.
11. She lives near the equator, so the weather is very hot.
12. He bought a pen and some paper in the shop. The pen was red.
13. She crashed her bicycle into a car, and broke the windscreen.
14. Could you give me a piece of paper?
15. Everest is the highest mountain in the world.
16. She came to San Francisco Ø last December.
17. I had a cup of tea and a biscuit. They were both delicious.
18. I’ll see you Ø next Tuesday.
19. Please pass the salt (there is one salt cellar on our table)
20. Have you read the book that I lent you?
22. I love looking at the planets on a clear night.
23. We ate Ø sandwiches and drank Ø water.
24. I bought a new dress. It has a pattern on the sleeves.
25. Journalists often talk about the environment these days.

Return to Exercise 9