

# Exercises 1

## Articles

Articles: a/an

PEG 1-4

Insert a or an if necessary.

- 1 My neighbour is . . . photographer; let's ask him for . . . advice about colour films.
- 2 We had . . . fish and . . . chips for . . . lunch. ~  
That doesn't sound . . . very interesting lunch.
- 3 I had . . . very bad night; I didn't sleep . . . wink.
- 4 He is . . . vegetarian; you won't get . . . meat at his house. He'll give you . . . nut cutlet. ~Last time I had . . . nut cutlet I had . . . indigestion.
- 5 . . . travel agent would give you . . . information about . . . hotels.
- 6 We'd better go by . . . taxi—if we can get . . . taxi at such . . . hour as 2 a.m.
- 7 . . . person who suffers from . . . claustrophobia has . . . dread of being confined in . . . small space, and would always prefer . . . stairs to . . . lift.
- 8 Do you take . . . sugar in . . . coffee? ~  
I used to, but now I'm on . . . diet. I'm trying to lose . . . weight.
- 9 . . . man suffering from . . . shock should not be given anything to drink.
- 10 You'll get . . . shock if you touch . . . live wire with that screwdriver.  
Why don't you get . . . screwdriver with . . . insulated handle?
- 11 It costs fifty-five and . . . half pence and I've only got . . . fifty pence piece. ~  
You can pay by . . . cheque here. ~  
But can I write . . . cheque for . . . fifty-five and . . . half pence?
- 12 . . . Mr Smith is . . . old customer and . . . honest man. ~  
Why do you say that? Has he been accused of . . . dishonesty?
- 13 I'm not . . . wage-earner; I'm . . . self-employed man. I have . . . business of my own. ~  
Then you're not . . . worker; you're . . . capitalist!
- 14 When he was charged with . . . murder he said he had . . . alibi.
- 15 . . . friend of mine is expecting . . . baby. If it's . . . girl she's going to be called Etheldreda. ~  
What . . . name to give . . . girl!
- 16 I have . . . hour and . . . half for lunch. ~  
I only have . . . half . . . hour—barely . . . time for . . . smoke and . . . cup of coffee.
- 17 I hope you have . . . lovely time and . . . good weather. ~  
But I'm not going for . . . holiday; I'm going on . . . business.
- 18 He looked at me with . . . horror when I explained that I was . . . double agent.
- 19 I wouldn't climb . . . mountain for J1,000! I have . . . horror of . . . heights.
- 20 I have . . . headache and . . . sore throat. I think I've got . . . cold. ~  
I think you're getting . . . flu.
- 21 . . . Mr Jones called while you were out (*neither of us knows this man*). He wants to make . . . complaint about . . . article in the paper. He was in . . . very bad temper.
- 22 If you go by . . . train you can have quite . . . comfortable journey, but make sure you get . . . express, not . . . train that stops at all the stations.
- 23 . . . few people know (*hardly anyone knows*) that there is . . . secret passage from this house to . . . old smugglers' cave in the cliffs.
- 24 I'm having . . . few friends in to . . . coffee tomorrow evening.  
Would you like to come? ~  
I'd love to, but I'm afraid I'm going to . . . concert.

- 25 It's time you had . . . holiday. You haven't had . . . day off for . . . month.  
 26 He broke ...leg in... skiing accident. It's still in . . . plaster.  
 27 I want . . . assistant with . . . knowledge of French and . . . experience of . . . office routine.  
 28 I see that your house is built of . . . wood. Are you insured against ... fire?  
 29 The escaping prisoner camped in . . . wood but he didn't light . . . fire because . . . smoke rising from the wood might attract . . . attention.  
 30 I had . . . amazing experience last night. I saw . . . dinosaur eating . . . meat pie in . . . London park. ~  
 You mean you had . . . nightmare. Anyway, dinosaurs didn't eat . . . meat.  
 31 I'll pay you . . . hundred . . . week. It's not . . . enormous salary but after all you are . . . completely unskilled man.  
 32 If you kept . . . graph you could see at . . . glance whether you were making . . . profit or . . . loss.  
 33 . . . little (*hardly anything*) is known about the effect of this drug; yet . . . chemist will sell it to you without . . . prescription.  
 34 I have . . . little money left; let's have dinner in . . . restaurant.  
 35 Would it be . . . trouble to you to buy me . . . newspaper on your way home?  
 36 . . . man is . . . reasoning animal.

### Articles: the PEG 6-8

Insert **the** if necessary.

- 1 . . . youngest boy has just started going to . . . school; . . . eldest boy is at . . . college.  
 2 She lives on . . . top floor of an old house. When . . . wind blows, all . . . windows rattle.  
 3 . . . darkness doesn't worry . . . cats; . . . cats can see in . . . dark.  
 4 My little boys say that they want to be . . . spacemen, but most of them will probably end up in . . . less dramatic jobs.  
 5 Do you know . . . time? ~  
 Yes, . . . clock in . . . hall has just struck nine. ~  
 Then it isn't . . . time to go yet.  
 6 He was sent to . . . prison for . . . six months for . . . shop-lifting.  
 When . . . six months are over he'll be released; . . . difficulty then will be to find . . . work. ~  
 Do you go to . . . prison to visit him?  
 7 I went to . . . school to talk to . . . headmistress. I persuaded her to let Ann give up . . . gymnastics and take . . . ballet lessons instead.  
 8 . . . ballet isn't much use for . . . girls; it is much better to be able to play . . . piano.  
 9 I am on... night duty. When you go to . . . bed, I go to . . . work.  
 10 Peter's at . . . office but you could get him on . . . phone. There's a telephone box just round . . . corner  
 11 He got... bronchitis and was taken to . . . hospital. **I expect** they'll send him home at . . . end of . . . week. ~  
 Have you rung . . . hospital to ask how he is?  
 12 Ann's habit of riding a motorcycle up and down . . . road early in . . . morning annoyed . . . neighbours and in . . . end they took her to . . . court.  
 13 He first went to . . . sea in a Swedish ship, so as well as learning . . . navigation he had to learn . . . Swedish.  
 14 . . . family hotels are . . . hotels which welcome . . . parents and . . . children.  
 15 On . . . Sundays my father stays in . . . bed till ten o'clock, reading . . . Sunday papers.  
 16 Then he gets up, puts on . . . old clothes, has . . . breakfast and starts . . . work in . . . garden.  
 17 My mother goes to . . . church in . . . morning, and in . . . afternoon goes to visit . . . friends.  
 18 Like many women, she loves . . . tea parties and . . . gossip.  
 19 My parents have ... cold meat and . . . salad for . . . supper, . . . winter and . . . summer.  
 20 During . . . meal he talks about . . . garden and she tells him . . . village gossip.  
 21 We have a very good train service from here to . . . city centre and most people go to . . . work by train. You

- can go by . . . bus too, of course, but you can't get a season ticket on . . . bus.
- 22 . . . dead no longer need . . . help. We must concern ourselves with . . . living. We must build . . . houses and . . . schools and . . . playgrounds.
- 23 I'd like to see . . . Mr Smith please. ~
- Do you mean . . . Mr Smith who works in . . . box office or . . . other Mr Smith?
- 24 Did you come by . . . air? ~
- No, I came by . . . sea. I had a lovely voyage on . . . Queen Elizabeth II.
- 25 . . . most of . . . stories that . . . people tell about . . . Irish aren't true.
- 26 . . . married couples with . . . children often rent . . . cottages by . . . seaside for . . . summer holidays. . . . men hire boats and go for . . . trips along . . . coast; . . . children spend . . . day on . . . beach and . . . poor mothers spend . . . most of . . . time doing . . . cooking and cleaning.
- 27 It's usually safe to walk on . . . sand, but here, when . . . tide is coming in, . . . sand becomes dangerously soft. . . . people have been swallowed up by it.
- 28 When . . . Titanic was crossing . . . Atlantic she struck an iceberg which tore a huge hole in her bow. . . . captain ordered . . . crew to help . . . passengers into . . . boats.
- 29 Everywhere . . . man has cut down . . . forests in order to cultivate . . . ground, or to use . . . wood as . . . fuel or as . . . building material.
- 30 But . . . interference with . . . nature often brings . . . disaster. . . . tree-felling sometimes turns . . . fertile land into a dustbowl.
- 31 . . . people think that . . . lead is . . . heaviest metal, but . . . gold is heavier.
- 32 Our air hostess said, ' . . . rack is only for . . . light articles. . . . heavy things such as . . . bottles must be put on . . . floor.'
- 33 . . . windows are supposed to let in . . . light; but . . . windows of this house are so small that we have to have . . . electric light on all . . . time.
- 34 There'll always be a conflict between . . . old and . . . young. . . . young people want . . . change but . . . old people want . . . things to stay . . . same.
- 35 . . . power tends to corrupt and . . . absolute power corrupts absolutely.
- 36 You can fool some of . . . people all . . . time, and all . . . people some of . . . time; but you cannot fool all . . . people all . . . time.

### Articles: a/an, the

PEG 1-8

Insert **a**, **an** or **the** if necessary.

- 1 There was . . . knock on . . . door. I opened it and found . . . small dark man in . . . blue overcoat and . . . woollen cap.
- 2 He said he was . . . employee of . . . gas company and had come to read . . . meter.
- 3 But I had . . . suspicion that he wasn't speaking . . . truth because . . . meter readers usually wear . . . peaked caps.
- 4 However, I took him to . . . meter, which is in . . . dark corner under . . . stairs  
(. . . meters are usually in . . . dark corners under . . . stairs).
- 5 I asked if he had . . . torch; he said he disliked torches and always read . . . meters by . . . light of . . . match.
- 6 I remarked that if there was . . . leak in . . . gaspipe there might be . . . explosion while he was reading . . . meter.
- 7 He said, 'As . . . matter of . . . fact, there was . . . explosion in . . . last house I visited; and Mr Smith, . . . owner of . . . house, was burnt in . . . face.'
- 8 'Mr Smith was holding . . . lighted match at . . . time of . . . explosion.'
- 9 To prevent . . . possible repetition of this accident, I lent him . . . torch.
- 10 He switched on . . . torch, read . . . meter and wrote . . . reading down on . . . back of . . . envelope.

- 11 I said in . . . surprise that . . . meter readers usually put . . . readings down in . . . book.  
12 He said that he had had . . . book but that it had been burnt in . . . fire in . . . Mr Smith's house.  
13 By this time I had come to . . . conclusion that he wasn't . . . genuine meter reader; and . . . moment he left . . . house I rang . . . police.  
14 Are John and Mary . . . cousins? ~  
No, they aren't . . . cousins; they are . . . brother and . . . sister.  
15 . . . fog was so thick that we couldn't see . . . side of . . . road. We followed . . . car in front of us and hoped that we were going . . . right way.  
16 I can't remember . . . exact date of . . . storm, but I know it was . . . Sunday because everybody was at . . . church. On . . . Monday . . . post didn't come because . . . roads were blocked by . . . fallen trees.  
17 Peter thinks that this is quite . . . cheap restaurant.  
18 There's been . . . murder here. ~  
Where's . . . body?~  
There isn't . . . body. ~  
Then how do you know there's been . . . murder?  
19 Number . . . hundred and two, - . . . house next door to us, is for sale.  
It's quite . . . nice house with . . . big rooms. . . . back windows look out on . . . park.  
20 I don't know what . . . price . . . owners are asking. But Dry and Rot are . . . agents. You could give them . . . ring and make them . . . offer.  
21 . . . postman's little boy says that he'd rather be . . . dentist than . . . doctor, because . . . dentists don't get called out at . . . night.  
22 Just as . . . air hostess (*there was only one on the plane*) was handing me . . . cup of . . . coffee . . . plane gave . . . lurch and . . . coffee went all over . . . person on . . . other side of . . . gangway.  
23 There was . . . collision between . . . car and . . . cyclist at . . . crossroads near . . . my house early in . . . morning. . . . cyclist was taken to . . . hospital with . . . concussion. . . . driver of . . . car was treated for . . . shock. . . . witnesses say that . . . car was going at . . . seventy miles . . . hour.  
24 Professor Jones, . . . man who discovered . . . new drug that everyone is talking about, refused to give . . . press conference.  
25 Peter Piper, . . . student in . . . professor's college, asked him why he refused to talk to . . . press.  
26 We're going to . . . tea with . . . Smiths today, aren't we? Shall we take . . . car? ~  
We can go by . . . car if you wash . . . car first. We can't go to . . . Mrs Smith's in . . . car all covered with . . . mud.  
27 He got . . . job in . . . south and spent . . . next two years doing . . . work he really enjoyed.  
28 It is . . . pleasure to do . . . business with such . . . efficient organization.  
29 . . . day after . . . day passed without . . . news, and we began to lose . . . hope.  
30 Would you like to hear . . . story about . . . Englishman, . . . Irishman and . . . Scotsman? ~  
No. I've heard . . . stories about . . . Englishmen, . . . Irishmen and . . . Scotsmen before and they are all . . . same.  
31 But mine is not . . . typical story. In my story . . . Scotsman is generous, . . . Irishman is logical and . . . Englishman is romantic. ~  
Oh, if it's . . . fantastic story I'll listen with . . . pleasure.  
32 My aunt lived on . . . ground floor of . . . old house on . . . River Thames. She was very much afraid of . . . burglars and always locked up . . . house very carefully before she went to . . . bed. She also took . . . precaution of looking under . . . bed to see if . . . burglar was hiding there.  
33 ' . . . modern burglars don't hide under . . . beds,' said her daughter.  
I'll go on looking just . . . same,' said my aunt.  
34 One morning she rang her daughter in . . . triumph. I found . . . burglar under . . . bed . . . last night,' she said, 'and he was quite . . . young man.'

Insert **a/an** or **one** if necessary.

- 1 . . . of my friends advised me to take . . . taxi; another said that there was quite . . . good bus service.
- 2 . . . friend of mine lent me . . . book by Meredith. I've only . . . more chapter to read. Would you like . . . loan of it afterwards?~  
No, thanks. I read . . . of his books . . . few years ago and didn't like it. Besides I have . . . library book to finish. If I don't take it back tomorrow I'll have to pay . . . fine.
- 3 . . . man I met on the train told me . . . rather unusual story.
- 4 Most people like . . . rest after . . . hard day's work, but Tom seemed to have . . . inexhaustible supply of energy.
- 5 I've told you . . . hundred times not to come into . . . room with . . . hat on.
- 6 It's unlucky to light three cigarettes with . . . match. ~  
That's only . . . superstition. Only . . . idiot believes in superstitions.
- 7 He says . . . caravan is no good; he needs . . . cottage.
- 8 . . . plate is no good; we need . . . dozen.
- 9 Last time there was . . . fog here . . . plane crash-landed in . . . field near the airport. The crew had . . . lucky escape. . . man broke his leg; the rest were unhurt.
- 10 You've been . . . great help to me; . . . day I will repay you.
- 11 My car broke down near . . . bus stop. There was . . . man waiting for . . . bus so I asked him for . . . advice.
- 12 He took . . . quick look at my car and said, 'Buy . . . new . . . !'
- 13 There was . . . woman there. The rest were men. ~  
There shouldn't have been even . . . woman. It was meant to be . . . stag party.
- 14 Don't tell . . . soul! Not even your wife! ~  
Of course not! I'd never tell . . . secret to . . . woman.
- 15 Most of the staff had been there for only . . . very short time, but . . . man had been there . . . year and . . . half, so he knew . . . little more than the rest.
- 16 Could you lend me . . . dictionary, please? I'm trying to do . . . crossword puzzle. ~  
I'm afraid I've only got . . . dictionary, and Tom's borrowed it.
- 17 . . . chop won't be enough for Tom; he'll want two; he's . . . small man but he's got . . . big appetite.
- 18 I want . . . volunteers for . . . dangerous job,' said the captain.  
There was . . . long silence.  
'Isn't there even . . . man who will take . . . risk?' he asked.  
. . . voice called out from the back, 'Will there be . . . reward?'
- 19 I have . . . flat on the top floor. You get . . . lovely view from there.
- 20 . . . day a new director arrived. He was . . . ambitious, bad-tempered man, and the staff took . . . instant dislike to him.
- 21 Suddenly . . . bullet struck . . . street lamp . . . little to Bill's left. He looked up and saw . . . man with . . . gun standing at . . . open window.
- 22 Bill fired back twice. . . . bullet hit the wall, the other broke . . . pane of . . . glass. He heard . . . angry shout.
- 23 . . . day—it was . . . dry day with . . . good visibility—Tom was driving along . . . country road in . . . borrowed car.
- 24 You're making . . . mistake after another. Have you . . . hangover, or something? ~  
No, but I had . . . very bad night last night. The people next door were having . . . party. ~  
. . . bad night shouldn't have such . . . effect on your work. I often have three bad nights in succession. I live in . . . very noisy street.

## Auxiliary Verbs

### Auxiliary verbs

PEG 106-7