

# 10 Correction of Common Errors (Articles)

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1. (a) I saw an US plane yesterday. (Incorrect)

I saw a US plane yesterday. (Correct)

(b) It was an unique sight. (Incorrect)

It was a unique sight. (Correct)

(c) He is an European. (Incorrect)

He is a European. (Correct)

(d) This is an useful book. (Incorrect)

This is a useful book. (Correct)

(e) He is an university professor. (Incorrect)

He is a university professor. (Correct)

**Note: US, unique, European, useful and university—each of these words starts with 'yu' sound which is consonant sound. So, they take article 'a' before them.**

2. (a) My boots were in a good condition. (Incorrect)

My boots were in good condition. (Correct)

(b) My books were in bad state. (Incorrect)

My books were in a bad state. (Correct)

**Note: 'In good/bad condition' is a correct expression whereas 'in a good/bad state' is also a correct expression.**

3. (a) He is in a good health. (Incorrect)

He is in good health. (Correct)

(b) I have a homework to do. (Incorrect)

I have homework to do. (Correct)

(c) The accused asked for a mercy. (Incorrect)

The accused asked for mercy. (Correct)

(d) I have received a news from abroad. (Incorrect)

I have received news from abroad. (Correct)

(e) He gets a good pay. (Incorrect)

He gets good pay. (Correct)

(f) We like to have a perfect safety. (Incorrect)

We like to have perfect safety. (Correct)

(g) I want a soap, please. (Incorrect)

I want some soap, please. (Correct)

or

I want a piece/cake of soap, please. (Correct)

(h) I like a comfortable travel. (Incorrect)

I like comfortable travel. (Correct)

(i) It was a bad weather. (Incorrect)

It was bad weather. (Correct)

(j) Teachers' work is a useful work. (Incorrect)

Teachers' work is useful work. (Correct)

(k) We write on a paper. (Incorrect)

We write on paper. (Correct)

**Note: Health, homework, mercy, news, pay, safety, soap, travel, weather, work, paper—all are uncountable nouns, and hence do not take 'a' before them. But salary, journey, climate and paper (= newspaper) are countable nouns; they take 'a' before them.**

4. Don't make noise. (Incorrect)

Don't make a noise. (Correct)

5. He has given me good deal of trouble. (Incorrect)

He has given me a good deal of trouble. (Correct)

6. A honest worker is liked by all. (Incorrect)

An honest worker is liked by all. (Correct)

7. He is M.A. (Incorrect)

He is an M.A. (Correct)

8. Hindus and Sikhs should co-operate with one another. (Incorrect)

The Hindus and the Sikhs should co-operate with one another. (Correct)

9. He caught me by neck. (Incorrect)

He caught me by the neck. (Correct)

10. United States of America is a very rich country. (Incorrect)

The United States of America is a rich country. (Correct)

11. The dancing is a popular pastime in Europe. (Incorrect)

Dancing is a popular pastime in Europe. (Correct)

**Note: Participle nouns like reading, working, dancing, singing, etc. do not require the definite article.**

12. The cheerfulness is a virtue which one should cultivate. (Incorrect)

Cheerfulness is a virtue which one should cultivate. (Correct)

**Note: Abstract nouns like cheerfulness, honesty, generosity, etc. do not require the definite article.**

13. He has been suffering from the pneumonia for the last three days. (Incorrect)

He has been suffering from pneumonia for the last three days. (Correct)

14. My uncle sent me a present on the Christmas day. (Incorrect)

My uncle sent me a present on Christmas day. (Correct)

**Note: 'Christmas day' is idiomatic.**

15. Go to the hell. (Incorrect)

Go to hell. (Correct)

**Note: 'The' is not used, with 'Hell', 'Heaven', 'Paradise' and 'Purgatory'.**

16. He was in the town when I wired to him. (Incorrect)

He was in town when I wired to him. (Correct)

**Note: 'In town' is idiomatic.**

17. The historians generally repeat themselves. (Incorrect)

Historians generally repeat themselves. (Correct)

18. The scientists don't believe in superstitions. (Incorrect)

Scientists don't believe in superstitions. (Correct)

**Note: Plural common nouns used in a general sense do not require the definite article.**

19. This boy is very good at the Persian. (Incorrect)

This boy is very good at Persian. (Correct)

**Note: Languages like French, Persian, English, etc. don't require the definite article.**

20. I want five bales of the cotton. (Incorrect)

I want five bales of cotton. (Correct)

21. Have you taken the breakfast? (Incorrect)

Have you taken breakfast? (Correct)

22. Usually they take the dinner together. (Incorrect)

Usually they take dinner together. (Correct)

23. It is better to rule in the hell than to serve in the heaven. (Incorrect)

It is better to rule in hell than to serve in heaven. (Correct)

24. The President Barack Obama broadcast a message of hope to England. (Incorrect)

President Barack Obama broadcast a message of hope to England. (Correct)

25. The Lord Byron was a lover of freedom. (Incorrect)

Lord Byron was a lover of freedom. (Correct)

26. He is opposed to the British Imperialism. (Incorrect)

He is opposed to British Imperialism. (Correct)

27. Give the causes of Mutiny of 1857. (Incorrect)

Give the causes of the Mutiny of 1857. (Correct)

28. Cloth is sold by metre. (Incorrect)

Cloth is sold by the metre. (Correct)

29. Describe the achievements of Ashoka Great. (Incorrect)

Describe the achievements of Ashoka the Great. (Correct)

30. You are in wrong. (Incorrect)

You are in the wrong. (Correct)

31. Ganges flows into Bay of Bengal. (Incorrect)

The Ganges flows into the Bay of Bengal. (Correct)

32. (a) I got hundred books. (Incorrect)

I got a hundred books. (Correct)

(b) I have thousand rupees. (Incorrect)

I have a thousand rupees. (Correct)

(c) He has dozen eggs. (Incorrect)

He has a dozen eggs. (Correct)

**Note: 'A hundred', 'a thousand' and 'a dozen' are correct expressions.**

33. (a) We pray to the God. (Incorrect)

We pray to God. (Correct)

(b) Durga is goddess. (Incorrect)

Durga is a goddess. (Correct)

**Note: 'God' never takes the definite article. But god/goddess takes an article.**

34. (a) Books that you gave me are very fine. (Incorrect)

The books that you gave me are very fine. (Correct)

(b) Combs that you sell are black. (Incorrect)

The combs that you sell are black. (Correct)

**Note: If plural nouns are used in some particular sense then the definite article is used.**

35. (a) I have been invited to dinner which is being given to welcome the minister. (Incorrect)

I have been invited to the dinner which is being given to welcome the minister. (Correct)

(b) He gave us good breakfast. (Incorrect)

He gave us a good breakfast. (Correct)

**Note: If there is some special meal, an article is used.**

36. (a) I have never seen a such pen. (Incorrect)

I have never seen such a pen. (Correct)

(b) What beautiful house he has! (Incorrect)

What a beautiful house he has! (Correct)

**Note: If there is a singular countable noun after 'such' and 'what', 'such a' and 'what a' are introduced.**

37. (a) He is seeking an employment. (Incorrect)

He is seeking employment. (Correct)

(b) He is in search of job. (Incorrect)

He is in search of a job. (Correct)

**Note: 'Employment' is an uncountable noun. So, it does not take an article before it. But 'job' is a countable noun. It takes an article before it.**

38. (a) I am B.A. (Incorrect)

I am a B.A. (Correct)

(b) He is S.D.O. (Incorrect)

He is an S.D.O. (Correct)

(c) She came in a hour. (Incorrect)

She came in an hour. (Correct)

**Note: 'B.A.' has a consonant sound. So, it takes 'a' before it. But 'S.D.O.' and 'hour' have vowel sounds, so they take 'an' before them.**

39. (a) The sun shines by the day, and not by the night. (Incorrect)

The sun shines by day, not by night. (Correct)

(b) He came here on the foot. (Incorrect)

He came here on foot. (Correct)

(c) She went there at the night. (Incorrect)

She went there at night. (Correct)

**Note: 'By day', 'by night', 'on foot' and 'at night' are correct expressions; no article is used in between them.**

40. (a) He talked to me by a telephone. (Incorrect)

He talked to me by telephone. (Correct)

(b) We hear radio in the morning. (Incorrect)

We hear the radio in the morning. (Correct)

(c) Do you ever listen to wireless? (Incorrect)

Do you ever listen to the wireless? (Correct)

**Note: 'Telephone' is a countable noun but 'by telephone' is an idiom. 'Radio' and 'wireless' (systems of broadcasting) take 'the' before them.**

41. (a) I work in morning. (Incorrect)

I work in the morning. (Correct)

(b) I rest in afternoon. (Incorrect)

I rest in the afternoon. (Correct)

(c) She plays in evening. (Incorrect)

She plays in the evening. (Correct)

**Note: 'In the morning/evening/afternoon' is a correct expression.**

42. (a) I must give answer to the question. (Incorrect)

I must give an answer to the question. (Correct)

(b) They got into boat. (Incorrect)

They got into a boat. (Correct)

(c) Everybody needs holiday. (Incorrect)

Everybody needs a holiday. (Correct)

(d) I often ride horse. (Incorrect)

I often ride a horse. (Correct)

(e) I had lesson yesterday. (Incorrect)

I had a lesson yesterday. (Correct)

(f) On such cold morning, I don't go out. (Incorrect)

On such a cold morning, I don't go out. (Correct)

(g) He wants to become politician. (Incorrect)

He wants to become a politician. (Correct)

(h) I take rest for an hour. (Incorrect)

I have a rest for an hour. (Correct)

or

I take a rest for an hour. (Correct)

(i) Calcutta is big city. (Incorrect)

Calcutta is a big city. (Correct)

(j) He travels by the boat/car/train. (Incorrect)

He travels by boat/car/train. (Correct)

**Note: Answer, boat, holiday, hours, lesson, morning, politician, rest and city are singular countable nouns. They take a/an before them. But by boat/plane/car/train is an idiom. It does not take any article.**

43. (a) He took a habit of smoking. (Incorrect)

He took the habit of smoking. (Correct)

(b) It is very important in a life of a person. (Incorrect)

It is very important in the life of a person. (Correct)

(c) I have a cat and a cat is black. (Incorrect)

I have a cat and the cat is black. (Correct)

(d) She hit him on a nose. (Incorrect)

She hit him on the nose. (Correct)

(e) A sea was rough. (Incorrect)

The sea was rough. (Correct)

(f) Sky in blue. (Incorrect)

The sky is blue. (Correct)

**Note: If any noun indicates a definite thing, it takes 'the' before it.**

44. (a) I play piano. (Incorrect)

I play the piano. (Correct)

(b) She likes harmonium. (Incorrect)

She likes the harmonium. (Correct)

(c) He learns a guitar. (Incorrect)

He learns the guitar. (Correct)

**Note: If 'play', 'learn' and 'like' are followed by musical instruments, each of those musical instruments takes 'the' before it.**

45. (a) It was not a best model. (Incorrect)

It was not the best model. (Correct)

(b) This is a smallest TV-set they make. (Incorrect)

This is the smallest TV-set they make. (Correct)

(c) This is biggest gramophone we have. (Incorrect)

This is the biggest gramophone we have. (Correct)

**Note: The superlative degrees of adjective (= best, smallest, biggest, etc.) take 'the' before them.**

46. (a) A poor always suffer. (Incorrect)

The poor always suffer. (Correct)

(b) Rich are seldom happy. (Incorrect)

The rich are seldom happy. (Correct)

(c) An unemployed is losing hope. (Incorrect)

The unemployed are losing hope. (Correct)

(d) He is collecting money for blind. (Incorrect)

He is collecting money for the blind. (Correct)

**Note: Some of the adjectives which take 'the' before them are as follows: the blind, the deaf, the sick, the mentally ill, the poor, the rich, the old, the dead, the unemployed, the uneducated, the handicapped, the foolish, the fortunate, etc. All these words have plural meanings; as,**

**The dead = The dead people or all dead people**

47. Bombay is London of India. (Incorrect)

Bombay is the London of India. (Correct)

48. Time is best healer. (Incorrect)

Time is the best healer. (Correct)

49. Shyam is better of two. (Incorrect)

Shyam is the better of two. (Correct)

50. The Mt. Everest is the highest peak in the world. (Incorrect)

Mt. Everest is the highest peak in the world. (Correct)

**Note: As Mt. Everest is a single mountain, no article is needed.**

51. Himalayas are the highest mountains in the world. (Incorrect)

The Himalayas are the highest mountains in the world. (Correct)

Note: As the Himalayas have a range of mountains, the definite article is needed.

52. Rice of Bengal is superior to that of Punjab. (Incorrect)

The rice of Bengal is superior to that of the Punjab. (Correct)

53. Sun was sinking behind hills. (Incorrect)

The sun was sinking behind hills. (Correct)

54. The Valmiki's Ramayana is a well-known religious book. (Incorrect)

Valmiki's Ramayana is a well-known religious book. (Correct)

55. Gita is a sacred book. (Incorrect)

The Gita is a sacred book. (Correct)

**Note: The definite article is needed before the names of religious books.**

56. The union is strength. (Incorrect)

Union is strength. (Correct)

57. The English is the language of English. (Incorrect)

English is the language of the English. (Correct)

58. The principal Sharma is an experienced man. (Incorrect)

Principal Sharma is an experienced man. (Correct)

59. The first and the last lessons of this book are very interesting. (Incorrect)

The first and last lessons of this book are very interesting. (Correct)

or

The first and the last lesson of this book are very interesting. (Correct)

60. Higher you go, cooler it is. (Incorrect)

The higher you go, the cooler it is. (Correct)

61. Second boy of last row is my friend. (Incorrect)

The second boy of the last row is my friend. (Correct)

62. There are shady trees on the either side of the road. (Incorrect)

There are shady trees on either side of the road. (Correct)

63. The rice grows in Bengal. (Incorrect)

Rice grows in Bengal. (Correct)

64. He has been absent from the college for last two weeks. (Incorrect)

He has been absent from the college for the last two weeks. (Correct)

65. I love to live in country. (Incorrect)

I love to live in the country. (Correct)

66. Singing of the cuckoo is different from singing of the nightingale. (Incorrect)

The singing of the cuckoo is different from the singing of the nightingale. (Correct)

**Note: 'Singing' is here particularized, hence the use of the definite article.**

67. It is only college where music is taught. (Incorrect)

It is the only college where music is taught. (Correct)

68. Rev. Harper will address the students today. (Incorrect)

The Rev. Harper will address the students today. (Correct)

69. This is more amusing of the two stories. (Incorrect)

This is the more amusing of the two stories. (Correct)

**Note: 'The' is used with nouns that represent well-known single objects or single wholes; as, The sun, the world, the universe, the heavens, the sky, the Bible, the north, the south, the east, the west, the navy, the bar, the public, the equator.**

70. He is now in a trouble. (Incorrect)

He is now in trouble. (Correct)

**Note: 'In trouble' is idiomatic.**

71. Please allow me to go as I have a work to do at home. (Incorrect)

Please allow me to go as I have work to do at home. (Correct)

**Note: 'A work' is un-idiomatic.**

72. In spite of an inclement weather, they sailed for their destination. (Incorrect)

In spite of inclement weather, they sailed for their destination. (Correct)

73. Mohan accidentally made a mention of his nephew who is an engineer. (Incorrect)

Mohan accidentally made mention of his nephew who is an engineer. (Correct)

74. He is so unsociable that he has a few friends. (Incorrect)

He is so unsociable that he has few friends. (Correct)

Note: 'A few' means 'some' whereas 'few' means 'none'.

75. He advanced a fallacious reasoning. (Incorrect)

He advanced fallacious reasoning. (Correct)

76. He is a bankrupt. He has a little money. (Incorrect)

He is a bankrupt. He has little money. (Correct)

Note: 'A little' means 'some' whereas 'little' means 'nothing'.

77. There is a vast scope for improvement. (Incorrect)

There is vast scope for improvement. (Correct)

78. (a) All the mankind should be happy. (Incorrect)

All mankind should be happy. (Correct)

(b) We enjoyed the beauty of the Nature. (Incorrect)

We enjoyed the beauty of Nature. (Correct)

(c) We have to learn to live in the society. (Incorrect)

We have to learn to live in society. (Correct)

(d) The man is mortal. (Incorrect)

Man is mortal. (Correct)

**Note: 'Mankind', 'nature', 'society' and 'man' are used in general sense. No article is needed.**

79. (a) The most people like it. (Incorrect)

Most people like it. (Correct)

(b) The most of the people like it. (Incorrect)

Most of the people like it. (Correct)

**Note: If a noun follows 'most' or 'most of', no article is needed before 'most'.**

80. Our clock struck the 7 o'clock. (Incorrect)

Our clock struck 7 o'clock. (Correct)

**Note: When o'clock is used like a noun, no article is needed.**

81. (a) He was given the post of the director. (Incorrect)

He was given the post of director. (Correct)

(b) He accepted the job of the headmaster. (Incorrect)

He accepted the job of headmaster. (Correct)

(c) He had the rank of a captain. (Incorrect)

He had the rank of captain. (Correct)

**Note: 'The post/job/rank/position of'—nouns following these words do not take any article.**



82. (a) I get up before the sunrise. (Incorrect)

I get up before sunrise. (Correct)

(b) He came here after the sunset. (Incorrect) He came here after sunset. (Correct)

**Note: Before/after/at sunrise or sunset is a correct expression. No article is required.**

83. (a) I want to go to cinema. (Incorrect)

I want to go to the cinema. (Correct)

(b) Do you often go to pictures? (Incorrect)

Do you often go to the pictures? (Correct)

(c) He went to theatre. (Incorrect)

He went to the theatre. (Correct)

(d) She went to movies. (Incorrect)

She went to the movies. (Correct)

(e) He goes to office at ten. (Incorrect)

He goes to the office at ten. (Correct)

**Note: Go to the cinema/theatre/pictures/movies/opera/ office/circus is a correct expression.**

**Say—He is at the office (but at work).**

84. (a) I go to the school every day. (Incorrect)

I go to school every day. (Correct)

(b) He goes to the college every day. (Incorrect)

He goes to college every day. (Correct)

**Note: When we go to school/college to teach or study, no article is required.**

85. The Magistrate passed order asking him to pay a fine. (Incorrect)

The Magistrate passed an order asking him to pay a fine. (Correct)

86. I have little money and I mean to buy few books today. (Incorrect)

I have a little money and I mean to buy a few books today. (Correct)

87. A black and white rabbit were missing. (Incorrect)

A black and a white rabbit were missing. (Correct)

**Note: An article is needed before each noun.**

88. This soldier receives pension from the Government. (Incorrect)

This soldier receives a pension from the Government. (Correct)

89. His father is very respectable businessman. (Incorrect)

His father is a very respectable businessman. (Correct)

90. He has been avoiding me for the month. (Incorrect)

He has been avoiding me for a month. (Correct)

91. Ramesh is the member of a revolutionary party. (Incorrect)

Ramesh is a member of a revolutionary party. (Correct)

92. The great many people come to receive him. (Incorrect)

A great many people come to receive him. (Correct)

**Note: 'A great many' is idiomatic.**

93. Use a right word in a right place. (Incorrect)

Use the right word in the right place. (Correct)

94. I know he is a right man for this job. (Incorrect)

I know he is the right man for this job. (Correct)

95. He is a more foolish of the two brothers. (Incorrect)

He is the more foolish of the two brothers. (Correct)

96. The following words are preceded by the definite article; as,

**Deccan, Carnatic, Cinema, Punjab, We would say—the Deccan, the Carnatic, the Cinema and the Punjab.**

97. Remember 'the' is used in the following phrases; as,

in the dark, in the wrong, to put to the test

98. No definite article is required in the following verbal and prepositional phrases; as,

**to set foot on; to shake hands; to clap hands; to leave town; to leave school; to shorten sail; to drop anchor; to send word; to lose heart; to take heart; to take oath; to give battle; to do penance; to lay siege; to follow suit; at sea; in town; at court; at school; at college; in jail; in bed; out of doors; out of place; on boardship; on deck; in jest; by rule of thumb; by sleight of hands; to make one's hair stand on end; to call mind; to live from hand to mouth; to have in hand; to hold/keep at arm's length; short in stature; by word of mouth; love at first sight.**

99. (a) Nile is a fine river. (Incorrect)

The Nile is a fine river. (Correct)

(b) Ganga is a holy river. (Incorrect)

The Ganga is a holy river. (Correct)

**Note: 'The' is needed before the name of a river.**

100. (a) Can you play the tennis? (Incorrect)

) Can you play tennis? (Correct)

(b) Do you like the cricket? (Incorrect)

Do you like cricket? (Correct)

(c) Have you ever played a football? (Incorrect)

Have you ever played football? (Correct)

**Note: No article is needed before the names of games (tennis/cricket, football, hockey, etc.)**

101. (a) He came here at the Christmas. (Incorrect)

He came here at Christmas. (Correct)

(b) The Holi falls in March. (Incorrect)

Holi falls in March. (Correct)

(c) The Deepawali is a happy festival. (Incorrect)

Deepawali is a happy festival. (Correct)

**Note: No article is required before the names of festivals.**

102. (a) Sports make body strong. (Incorrect)

Sports make the body strong. (Correct)

(b) Games make arms strong. (Incorrect)

Games make the arms strong. (Correct)

(c) Boxing makes back strong. (Incorrect)

Boxing makes the back strong. (Correct)

**Note: Parts of the body (body, arms, legs, back, muscles, etc.) take articles before them.**

103. (a) He speaks the English. (Incorrect)

He speaks English. (Correct)

(b) Do you know the Hindi? (Incorrect)

Do you know Hindi? (Correct)

**Note: No article is needed before the name of a language. But we can say—the English language or the Hindi language.**

104. (a) I saw an one-act play. (Incorrect)

I saw a one-act play. (Correct)

(b) He gave me an one-rupee note. (Incorrect)

He gave me a one-rupee note. (Correct)

(c) I bought an one-way ticket. (Incorrect)

I bought a one-way ticket. (Correct)

**Note: 'One' has a consonant sound. That is why it takes 'a', not 'an' before it.**

105. (a) He tells lie. (Incorrect)

He tells a lie. (Correct)

(b) He always speaks truth. (Incorrect)

He always speaks the truth. (Correct)

Note: A lie/the truth is a correct expression.

106. (a) He went to U.S.A. (Incorrect)

He went to the U.S.A. (Correct)

(b) She came from U.K. (Incorrect)

She came from the U.K. (Correct)

(c) I returned from U.S.S.R. (Incorrect)

I returned from the U.S.S.R. (Correct)

**Note: U.S.A./U.K./U.S.S.R.—they take 'the' before them. But no article is required before America, Britain and Russia. Three Golden Rules**

Always bear in mind the following three Golden Rules in make any mistake while using articles:-

(a) Never use 'the' (with plural and uncountable nouns) to talk about things in general; as,

Life is hard. (Not—The life is hard.)

(b) Don't use singular countable nouns without articles; as,

the car or a car (But not—car)

(c) Use a/an to say what people's professions or jobs are; as,

He is a bank manager. (Not—He is bank manager)