🩹 IELTS WRITING FIRST AID KIT #1

Articles: a, an and the

Articles are small words, but they appear in almost every sentence – so mistakes add up quickly.

📌 Quick Rule

a / an	one of many, or something mentioned for the first time: *a car, an idea*
the	something specific, or already mentioned: *the car I bought*
no article	plural or uncountable nouns in general: *Young people... Advice is...*

✅ Before you finish, check:

- ☐ Have I put **a** or **an** before every singular countable noun?
- ☐ Have I avoided **a / an** with plural and uncountable nouns?
- ☐ Have I used **the** for something specific or already mentioned?
- ☐ Have I left out **the** when I am talking about things in general?

⚡ Quick Practice

Find and correct the article mistake in each sentence.

1. Parents should give their children a good advice about money.
2. Having car can make travelling to work easier.
3. I bought a new laptop last month. A laptop is mainly for my studies.
4. Air pollution is serious problem in many large cities.
5. The young people often use social media to communicate.

🩹 FIRST AID KIT #1 – ANSWERS

Articles: a, an and the

✔️ Answers

1. Parents should give their children **good advice** about money.
   Advice is uncountable, so it cannot have *a*.

2. Having **a car** can make travelling to work easier.
   Car is singular and countable, so it needs an article.

3. I bought a new laptop last month. **The laptop** is mainly for my studies.
   The laptop has already been mentioned, so it is specific.

4. Air pollution is **a serious problem** in many large cities.
   Problem is singular and countable.

5. **Young people** often use social media to communicate.
   This is young people in general, so no article.

My score: ____ / 5

🚑 Your 1-Minute Check

Read your writing again, but this time look only at **a**, **an** and **the**.

Don't try to check everything at once. Focus on one type of mistake and correct the errors you already know how to fix.

🎯 **Want more practice?** Find full grammar, writing and reading lessons – many of them free – at **startielts.co.uk**.

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