

BRUSH UP YOUR GRAMMAR

Use of ARTICLE

Complete the following exercise using a/an/the/0 (no article) in the underlined spaces where appropriate. Change capital letters to lower case letters at the beginning of a sentence if necessary.

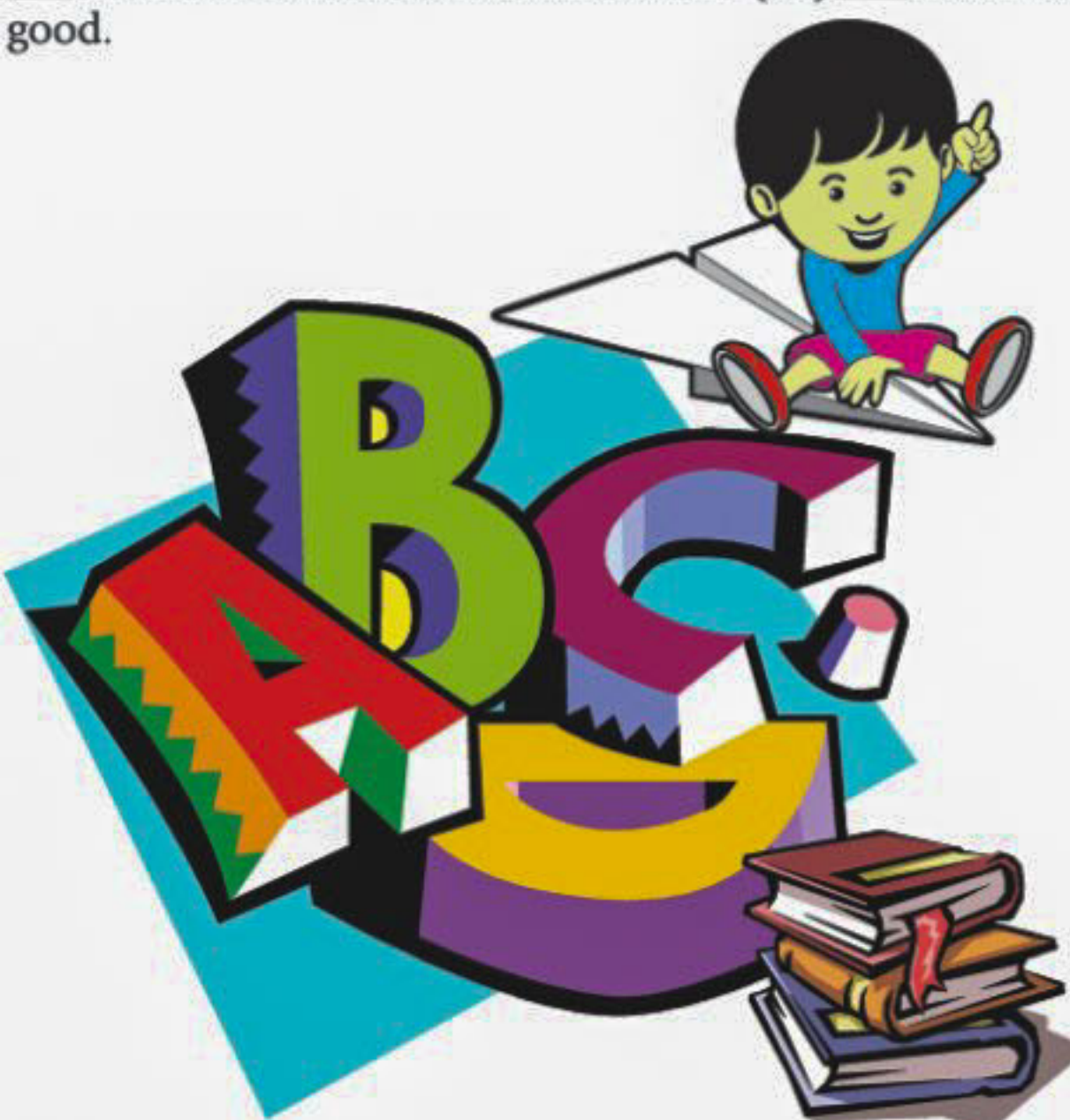


Ms Parrot, (1) most famous lady detective of (2) twenty-first century, was born in (3) United Kingdom in (4) 1960s. Since then, she has been to many countries, including (5) Portugal, Singapore and Australia, and has lived in (6) northern hemisphere and (7) southern hemisphere, as well as on (8) equator. She has never been to (9) Philippines or (10) United States, but she speaks (11) English, French and Portuguese. Like Sherlock Holmes, (12) famous detective, she plays (13) violin, and sometimes practises up to five times (14) day. She is also (15) only person in (16) world to have performed Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture [a long piece of music] in one breath on (17) recorder.



She has been (18) detective for thirty years and claims that although many people think that being (19) detective is (20) piece of cake, detectives generally work very hard and it's not all fun and games. (21) detective is someone who solves mysteries, and (22) people who contact Ms Parrot have some very unusual problems. Little information is available about some of (23) cases she has solved, but quite (24) few of her most famous cases have attracted worldwide attention and she has been offered up to (25) thousand dollars (26) hour to help solve mysteries such as (27) case of (28) Australian owl in (29) uniform. (30) bird laid (31) egg in (32) European nest in less than (33) hour after its arrival. What (34) strange problem!

With great (35) modesty, she has either declined such (36) fee or donated (37) money to (38) poor, or to (39) Grammar Survival Fund, believing that (40) detective should use their skills for (41) common good.



Find the answers in next MONDAY issue

Demonstrative Pronouns Answers and Tips



1. The chef forgot to include basil in making the spaghetti sauce. This caused the meal to be bland and led to a bad review in Food magazine.

- Answer 1:** This mistake caused the meal to be bland and led to a bad review in Food magazine.
Answer 2: This minuscule oversight caused the meal to be bland and led to a bad review in Food magazine.
Answer 3: This gross omission caused the meal to be bland and led to a bad review in Food magazine.

Teaching Tip: There is an infinite number (or at least very many) of plausible answers. The key is for the student to think about the intended purpose. Is it to slant the tone in favor of the chef, as in Answer 2? Or is it to cast the chef in a severely negative light, as in answer 3? Answer 1 maintains a certain neutrality while still being clear.

2. Mary Ellen made the honor roll, won an essay contest, and was admitted to Mu Alpha Theta. This improved her chances of being admitted to a top university.

- Answer 1:** These accomplishments improved her chances of being admitted to a top university.
Answer 2: These achievements improved her chances of being admitted to a top university.
Answer 3: These honors improved her chances of being admitted to a top university.

3. Maria waits until the last minute to do everything. This causes her to lose out on financial aid and lose the classes she needs to take.

- Answer 1:** This procrastination causes her to lose out on financial aid and lose the classes she needs to take.
Answer 2: This bad habit causes her to lose out on financial aid and lose the classes she needs to take.

4. Xavier always completed his assignments on time, never complained about coworkers, and seldom took any sick time. This led to his promotion.

- Answer 1:** This positive attitude led to his promotion.
Answer 2: These important virtues led to his promotion.

5. Marble Slab Creamery offers waffle cones, wafer cones, several ice cream flavors, and many different toppings. This is what makes their ice cream so delicious.

- Answer 1:** These options make their ice cream so delicious.
Answer 2: This variety makes their ice cream so delicious.

6. Alicia forgot she had to take care of her little sister and went out with her friends instead. This got her in trouble with her mom.

- Answer 1:** This negligence got her in trouble with her mom.
Answer 2: These lapses got her in trouble with her mom.

7. Our server did not bring drink refills, communicated our order wrongly to the chef, and sat down to speak with other guests while we waited for our check. This kept her from getting a generous tip.

- Answer 1:** This poor service kept her from getting a generous tip.
Answer 2: These transgressions kept her from getting a generous tip.

Answers and Teaching Tips, Worksheet 2, 14 Exercises

1. Arnold stopped eating ice cream at night. This helped him lose the weight he wanted before going away to college.

- Answer 1:** This habit helped him lose the weight he wanted before going away to college.
Answer 2: This self-denial helped him lose the weight he wanted before going away to college.

2. Selena started taking acting lessons and auditioning for local plays. This proved to her parents that she was serious about a career in show business.

- Answer 1:** This determination proved to her parents that she was serious about a career in show business.
Answer 2: These proactive steps proved to her parents that she was serious about a career in show business.

3. When Dr. Shriver decided to suspend the field trip, the 5th grade parents wrote a letter to the district president. This led to Dr. Shriver's dismissal as principal.

- Answer 1:** This poor decision led to Dr. Shriver's dismissal as principal.
Answer 2: This ill-advised letter led to Dr. Shriver's dismissal as principal.

8. Ronaldo scored four goals in a soccer match. This improved his chances of earning a soccer scholarship at a top university.

- Answer 1:** This performance improved his chances of earning a soccer scholarship at a top university.
Answer 2: These goals improved his chances of earning a soccer scholarship at a top university.

9. Many Catholics do not eat meat on Good Friday, attend mass regularly, and receive communion. They believe that this brings them spiritual renewal.

- Answer 1:** They believe that these practices bring them spiritual renewal.
Answer 2: They believe that these observances bring them spiritual renewal.

10. Some Wal-Mart stores carry items that cater to Latino tastes. This helps the stores appeal to a broader base of shoppers.

- Answer 1:** This marketing strategy helps the stores appeal to a broader base of shoppers.
Answer 2: This sensitivity to its customers helps the stores appeal to a broader base of shoppers.
Answer 3: This recognition of cultural diversity helps the stores appeal to a broader base of shoppers.



Teaching Tip :

- Answer 1** focuses on Dr. Shriver's decision. The writer makes it clear that he or she believes that Dr. Shriver's decision to suspend the field trip was a poor one.
Answer 2, on the other hand, focuses on the letter from the parents to the district president. Note that in this case the writer believes that the letter from the parents was "ill-advised," unfair to Dr. Shriver. Using a noun after "This" clarifies the writer's rhetorical stance.

Tips:

Answer 1 makes it seem as if Wal-mart carries different items simply as a marketing ploy, while **Answers 2 and 3** suggest that Wal-mart supports diversity.

4. After Justin earned perfect scores on spelling tests for three weeks, Mrs. Schmidt awarded him a gold star. This prompted his parents to take him to Universal Studios.

- Answer 1:** This hard work prompted his parents to take him to Universal Studios.
Answer 2: This achievement prompted his parents to take him to Universal Studios.

11. Because Mr. Gomez was promoted to chief of security, his department threw him a surprise party. This was held after work hours at the TGIF.

- Answer 1:** This party was held after work hours at the TGIF.
Answer 2: This celebration was held after work hours at the TGIF.

5. Danika compiled over 400 index cards to study for her AP World History test. This helped her to get a 5 on the test.

- Answer 1:** This hard work helped her to get a 5 on the test.
Answer 2: These study habits helped her to get a 5 on the test.

12. Robert decided to apply to Stanford University after earning high scores on the SAT. This made his family and friends look at Robert with new-found respect.

- Answer 1:** This decision made his family and friends look at Robert with new-found respect.
Answer 2: This goal (of making it to Stanford) made his family and friends look at Robert with new-found respect.

6. Coach Farley started a body building program at the high school. Some parents do not support this because they believe it detracts from the academics.

- Answer 1:** Some parents do not support this program because they believe it detracts from the academics.
Answer 2: Some parents do not support this superfluous and expensive program because they believe it detracts from the academics.

13. Bryce Harper dropped out of high school and passed the GED so that he could enroll at a community college and play baseball. This made him eligible for the 2011 Major League baseball draft.

- Answer 1:** This dangerous tactic made him eligible for the 2011 Major League baseball draft.
Answer 2: This manipulation made him eligible for the 2011 Major League baseball draft.

7. Unless Shelly raises her GPA to a 3.5, her parents will not allow her to play softball. This made Shelly more determined to do well in school.

- Answer 1:** This motivation made Shelly more determined to do well in school.
Answer 2: This parental rule made Shelly more determined to do well in school.

14. Barry Bonds is believed to have taken performance enhancing drugs and lied about their use while he set home run records in baseball. This might prevent him from being elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

- Answer 1:** These allegations might prevent him from being elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.
Answer 2: This belief among sports writers might prevent him from being elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.
Answer 3: These facts might prevent him from being elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.