



Answers

1. b) detail
2. a) sea
3. c) office
4. d) the question
5. b) day
6. a) place
7. d) sight
8. b) chair
9. d) —
10. c) the
11. a) a
12. c) —
13. d) the
14. a) —
15. c) —
16. d) the
17. b) —
18. c) —
19. a) —
20. b) the



Explanations

1. “detail” (b)

'In detail' is a fixed expression meaning 'thoroughly' or 'comprehensively'. 'In the detail' would refer to one specific detail. 'A detail' means a single piece of information, which doesn't fit with 'covering everything'.

2. “sea” (a)

'At sea' is a fixed expression meaning 'on a voyage' or 'sailing'. 'At the sea' means 'near the sea' or 'at the seaside' — a physical location, not the activity of sailing. The context of 'sailing between Europe and the Americas' confirms the voyage meaning.

3. “office” (c)

'In office' is a fixed expression meaning 'in a position of political power'. 'In the office' means physically inside an office building. 'Three consecutive terms' clearly refers to political service, not a physical location.

4. “the question” (d)

'Out of the question' means 'impossible' or 'not to be considered'. The quite different expression 'out of question' (without 'the') is an archaic form meaning 'beyond doubt'. In modern English, 'out of the question' is the standard idiom for something unacceptable.

5. “day” (b)

'By day' is a fixed expression meaning 'during the daytime' as a habitual pattern. 'By the day' means 'per day' (payment rate), as in 'paid by the day'. The context of habitual sleeping patterns requires 'by day'.

6. “place” (a)

'Took place' is a fixed expression meaning 'happened' or 'occurred'. 'Took the place' means 'replaced' or 'substituted' (as in 'took the place of'). 'Took a place' means 'occupied a seat or position'.

7. “sight” (d)

'In sight' is a fixed expression meaning 'visible' or 'able to be seen'. 'In the sight of' is a different expression meaning 'in the judgement or view of' (formal/archaic). After weeks at sea, the crew could finally see land.

8. “chair” (b)

After verbs like 'appoint', 'elect', and 'make', we use zero article before a unique role or title: 'appointed chair', 'elected president', 'made captain'. This formal pattern emphasises the role itself. 'A chair' would imply one of several.

9. “—” (d)

After 'elect' + object, we use zero article before a unique role: 'elected her president', 'elected him treasurer'. This formal pattern also applies to 'appoint', 'make', and 'name'. The zero article signals that 'president' describes the role, not a person. 'A president' would oddly imply one of several presidents.

10. “the” (c)

Superlatives require 'the': 'the youngest', 'the best', 'the most experienced'. Even though titles after 'become' can sometimes take zero article ('She became president'), a superlative always needs 'the'. This is a key exception to the zero-article-with-roles rule.

11. “a” (a)

In appositive phrases (extra information between commas), we use 'a/an' when describing someone as one of a group: 'a leading authority' means one of several leading authorities. 'The leading authority' would imply she is the only one, which is a much stronger — and less typical — claim.

12. “—” (c)

After 'elect' + object, we use zero article before a unique role: 'elected him class representative', 'elected her president'. In formal English, the zero article emphasises the role or function. 'A class representative' would suggest one of many, but typically there is one per class.

13. “the” (d)

'The role of X in Y' is a standard academic collocation. 'The' is required because 'of socioeconomic factors' specifies which role is being discussed, making it definite. Similar academic patterns include 'the impact of', 'the effect of', 'the relationship between'.

14. “—” (a)

'In conclusion' (no article) is a fixed discourse marker meaning 'to summarise' or 'finally'. 'In the conclusion' (with 'the') refers to the conclusion section of a document: 'The findings are summarised in the conclusion.' Here, the writer is wrapping up an argument, so the discourse marker is needed.

15. “—” (c)

No article is used with uncountable nouns in general statements. 'Recent research suggests...' is a standard academic opening that presents findings without specifying a particular study. 'The recent research' would imply a specific, previously mentioned body of research. 'A research' is incorrect because 'research' is uncountable.

16. “the” (d)

'The impact of X on Y' is a standard academic collocation requiring 'the' because the 'of' phrase specifies which impact is meant. Similarly: 'the effect of climate change on biodiversity', 'the influence of social media on public opinion'. The post-modifier makes the noun definite.

17. “—” (b)

No article is needed with abstract/uncountable nouns used in a general sense. 'Education' here refers to the concept as a whole, not a specific educational programme. Compare: 'The education she received was excellent' (specific education).

18. “—” (c)

No article is used with compound nouns or named concepts used in a general, definitional sense: 'Dutch courage is...', 'Common sense tells us...'. 'The Dutch courage' would imply a specific instance, but here we are defining the term itself.

19. “—” (a)

No article is used before a title followed by a name: 'Professor Harrison', 'Doctor Smith', 'President Lincoln'. Adding 'the' ('the Professor Harrison') is incorrect in standard English. Compare: 'A Mr. Smith called' (formal, meaning 'someone called Mr. Smith').

20. “the” (b)

'The government' refers to the specific, current government of the country being discussed. Countable singular nouns like 'government' require an article. 'The' is correct because both speaker and listener know which government is meant — the one currently in power.