



Articles (a/an/the/zero): The vs No Article: School, Hospital & Fixed Expressions

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. She goes to ___ school by bus every day.
a) the
b) a
c) —
d) an
2. I went to ___ school to talk to my son's teacher.
a) the
b) a
c) —
d) an
3. He plays ___ piano beautifully.
a) a
b) the
c) —
d) an
4. My children play ___ tennis after school.
a) a
b) the
c) an
d) —
5. I always read a book before I go to ___ bed.
a) —
b) a
c) the
d) an
6. She goes to ___ church every Sunday.
a) a
b) —
c) the
d) an
7. We usually have a meeting in ___ morning.
a) a
b) an
c) the
d) —
8. He was sent to ___ prison for five years.
a) a
b) the
c) an
d) —
9. She can play ___ guitar very well.
a) the
b) a
c) —
d) an
10. The children are at ___ home today.
a) a
b) —
c) the
d) an



Answers

1. c) —
2. a) the
3. b) the
4. d) —
5. a) —
6. b) —
7. c) the
8. d) —
9. a) the
10. b) —
11. c) the
12. d) —
13. a) the
14. b) —
15. c) the
16. d) the
17. a) the
18. b) —
19. c) the
20. d) the



Explanations

1. “—” (c)

We say 'go to school' (without 'the') when we mean going as a student for studying. It refers to the function, not the building.

2. “the” (a)

We say 'go to the school' when we mean the building itself. Here, the parent is visiting the building, not attending as a student.

3. “the” (b)

We use 'the' before musical instruments when talking about playing them: play the piano, the guitar, the violin.

4. “—” (d)

We don't use an article before sports and games: play tennis, play football, play chess.

5. “—” (a)

We say 'go to bed' (without 'the') when we mean going to sleep. It's a fixed expression.

6. “—” (b)

We say 'go to church' (without 'the') when we mean going for a religious service. It refers to the function.

7. “the” (c)

We always say 'in the morning', 'in the afternoon', 'in the evening'. These are fixed expressions with 'the'.

8. “—” (d)

We say 'sent to prison' (without 'the') when someone goes as a prisoner. It refers to the function, not the building.

9. “the” (a)

We use 'the' before musical instruments: play the guitar, the piano, the drums.

10. “—” (b)

We say 'at home' (without 'the'). It's a fixed expression. We never say 'at the home'.

11. “the” (c)

We say 'go to the church' when we mean the building itself. Here, they went to see paintings, not for a religious service.

12. “—” (d)

We say 'go to work' (without 'the'). It's a fixed expression, like 'go to school' and 'go to bed'.

13. “the” (a)

We always say 'in the afternoon'. This is a fixed expression with 'the'.

14. “—” (b)

We say 'at night' (without 'the'). This is different from 'in the morning/afternoon/evening', which all use 'the'.

15. “the” (c)

We use 'the' before musical instruments: play the violin, the piano, the flute.

16. “the” (d)

We always say 'in the evening'. This is a fixed expression with 'the'.

17. “the” (a)

We say 'go to the prison' when we mean visiting the building. Here, the lawyer is visiting a client, not being imprisoned.

18. “—” (b)

We don't use an article before games: play chess, play cards, play video games.

19. “the” (c)

We say 'at the weekend' when talking about the weekend in general. This is a fixed expression with 'the'.

20. “the” (d)

We say 'at the school' when referring to the building for a purpose other than studying. Here, they're preparing for an event.