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1. **PROPER NOUNS** name a specific person, place, or thing and begin with a capital letter. They do not take an article. For example: Abraham Lincoln, New York City, etc.

   *You wouldn’t say: We took a vacation to the New York City.*

*Exceptions to this rule include names of buildings, museums, seas, oceans, rivers, deserts, historical periods, and some countries, for example: the United States, the neoclassical period, the Getty Museum.

1. **COMMON NOUNS** do not begin with a capital letter: cup, dog, computer, bus, essay, etc. Common nouns are either specific or non-specific.

2. **SPECIFIC COMMON NOUNS** take the article “the.”

   *You would say: The cup in your hand is too full.*

3. **NON-SPECIFIC COMMON NOUNS** use the article “a or an” or they take no article, depending on whether they are count or non-count.

4. **NON-SPECIFIC COMMON NON-COUNT NOUNS** are usually abstract nouns such as boredom, freedom, fear, etc. They cannot be counted and are rarely pluralized. Non-count nouns do not take an article.

   *You wouldn’t say: I was suffering from the boredom.
   You wouldn’t say: I had a lot of a freedom as a child.
   But you would say: I was motivated by fear.*

5. **NON-SPECIFIC COMMON COUNT NOUNS** are either singular or plural. If a non-specific count noun is singular it takes “a or an.” If it is plural, it takes no article.

   *You would say: I saw a dog at the park.
   You wouldn’t say: I saw a dogs at the park.
   But you would say: I saw dogs at the park.*

Circle all the incorrect uses of articles:

1. During my trip to the Spain, I never experienced a boredom.
2. A computer is a useful tool. The one I have is fairly new.
3. There are many great works of the art at Museum of Modern Art in New York.
4. Bus left early and I experienced the anger.
5. My sister bought the new house, but she regretted it when she found out that a basement flooded every winter.

Fill in the articles:

1. My cat follows me everywhere; she acts more like ____ dog.
2. I have ____ fear of spiders.
3. Please don’t feed____ monkeys.
4. We took a tour of ____ legislature.

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