



# Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

**Adapted and modified by**

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## **Banta Learning Articles 2 by K S Sandhu**

I come from a close family in a small village in Punjab. We live in an old house with big windows and a quiet garden. My parents are kind and hardworking. I've got two sisters and a brother, and we all get on well most of the time.

Meena is the eldest sister. She's a dentist and works in a modern clinic in the nearest town. She loves her job because she helps people with tooth problems. Meena is a lovely person – always smiling and ready to listen. Everyone in the family asks her for advice when something is wrong.

Kavita is the middle sister. She's a student at the university in Chandigarh. She studies Punjabi literature, but she isn't a very good student. She prefers to spend her time enjoying herself – going to cafés, watching films, or chatting with friends online. Our parents sometimes worry about her marks, but Kavita says, "Life is short – I want to have fun too!"

My brother Chaman is an architect. He has got an interesting job and travels a lot for work. Last year he designed a beautiful house for our uncle near the river. The house has large rooms, a big balcony, and a garden full of flowers. Chaman is proud of his work, and now more people ask him to plan new buildings.

I live with my parents, but I spend hours on the Internet talking to friends from all over the world. The village is quiet, so the Internet helps me feel connected. Sometimes I read the news or look at magazines online.

In Britain, the most popular daily newspaper is the Sun. It sells millions of copies every day and people read it on the train or at home. One of the most unusual magazines is The Big Issue. It is sold by homeless or vulnerable people on the streets of London and other towns. Vendors buy the magazine cheaply and sell it to earn money – it's a way to get a hand-up, not just a hand-out.

Another famous magazine is Variety. It's an international magazine that specialises in news about the cinema, television, and entertainment. Film directors and actors read it to know what's happening in Hollywood and around the world.

One day my brother said, "Maybe one day I'll design a cinema in our village!" We all laughed, but who knows? Life is full of surprises.

**Questions:**

Question 1: Where does the family live?

Question 2: What is Meena's job?

Question 3: Why isn't Kavita a very good student?

Question 4: What did Chaman design for their uncle?

Question 5: What is The Big Issue different from other magazines?

**Answers:**

Answer 1: The family lives in an old house in a small village (in Punjab).

Answer 2: Meena is a dentist.

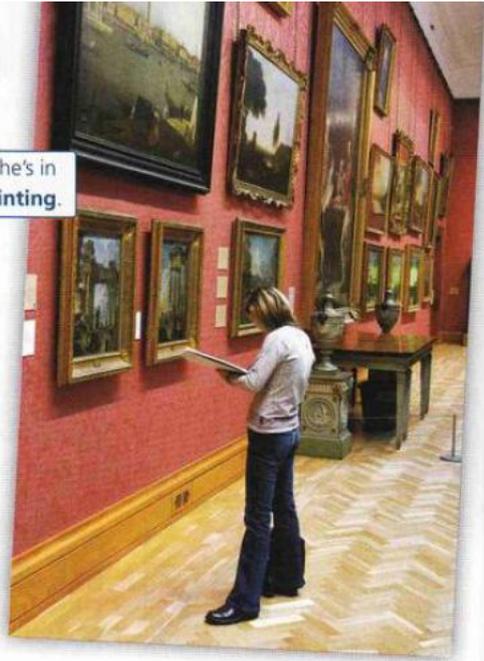
Answer 3: She isn't a very good student because she prefers to spend her time enjoying herself / having fun.

Answer 4: Chaman designed a beautiful house for their uncle (near the river).

Answer 5: The Big Issue is sold by homeless or vulnerable people on the streets to help them earn money — it is a way to get a hand-up, not just a hand-out.

### 3 Special uses of *a/an* and *the*

Michelle's **a student** at art school. She's in the museum copying **a beautiful painting**.



#### 1 Jobs and descriptions

We use *a/an* with the names of jobs:

Michelle's **a student**.

I want to be **an engineer**.

We also use *a/an* to describe a person or thing, usually with an adjective:

She's copying **a beautiful painting**.

He's **a nice person**.

That was **an interesting exhibition**.

#### 2 Institutions: purpose or building?

institution school college university prison hospital

When we think of the purpose of these institutions we don't use *the*. But when we think of the building, we use *the* or *a/an*.

PURPOSE	BUILDING
Michelle is <b>a student</b> at art school.	<b>The art school</b> is in North Street.
My brother's sick in <b>hospital</b> .	Excuse me, where's <b>the hospital</b> ?
<b>The murderer</b> was sent to prison.	<b>The prison</b> has stone walls.

#### 3 The media

We use *the* with the names of most newspapers, but most magazines have no article:

newspapers *the Daily News the Sun the New York Times*  
 most magazines *Vogue Newsweek Time Hello*

'Did you see her photo in **Vogue**?' 'No, it was in **the Sun**.'

We say *the cinema*, *the theatre* and *the radio*. We don't normally use *the* with *television* or *TV* when we are talking about the programmes:

In the mornings I like listening to **the radio** but in the evenings I prefer watching **TV**.

But we use *a* or *the* if we are talking about the machine:

There's something wrong with **the television** in my bedroom.

#### 4 *the* + adjective for groups and nationalities

*the young the old the elderly the rich the poor the sick the homeless  
 the disabled the unemployed the blind the deaf the injured the dead*

Some adjectives can be used as nouns if they describe a particular group, e.g. all the people who are rich = *the rich*. We use a plural verb:

**The rich** are getting richer and **the poor** are getting poorer.

We can use nationality adjectives that end in *-ch/-sh/-ese* in the same way, e.g. *French, Spanish, Dutch, Japanese* (► Unit 95.2):

**The French** have elected a new president. (all the French people)

**The Irish** are voting on the new European Union tomorrow. (all the Irish people)

⚠ We can't use other nationality words in this way:

✗ *The Brazilian* are used to hot weather. ✓ **Brazilians** are used to hot weather.

## Practice

- 1 **GRAMMAR IN USE** There are ten more places in the letter where *a* or *an* is missing. Write a or an in the correct places. **2.06** Listen and check.

I come from <sup>a</sup> close family. I've got two sisters and a brother. Emily's the eldest sister. She's <sup>a</sup> dentist and she's <sup>a</sup> lovely person. Caroline is <sup>a</sup> student. She's <sup>a</sup> studying French at university. She isn't <sup>a</sup> good student; she prefers to spend her time enjoying herself! My brother has got <sup>a</sup> interesting job, he's <sup>a</sup> architect. He designed <sup>a</sup> beautiful new house for my uncle. I live with my parents in <sup>a</sup> old house in <sup>a</sup> small village. It's <sup>a</sup> quiet place so I'm glad I've got lots of friends on the Internet!

- 2 Match the sentences 1–7 with the questions A–H.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 0 Derek's at university.            | → A Is he on holiday?                  |
| 1 Mr Rogers is going to the school. | → B Is he studying to be a doctor?     |
| 2 My brother is in hospital.        | C Is he the famous murderer?           |
| 3 Ali visited the university.       | D Did he see the new physics building? |
| 4 James isn't at school today.      | E Is he going to see the school play?  |
| 5 He's working at the hospital.     | F Is he visiting a prisoner?           |
| 6 Derek Sutcliffe is in prison.     | G Is he a doctor?                      |
| 7 Karl's going to the prison today. | H Is he having an operation?           |

- 3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the information with *the* or – (no article). **2.07** Listen and check.

## PRINT MEDIA FACTSHEET

- The most widely read English language newspaper in the world is *USA Today*. The most popular magazine is (0) ..... *AARP Magazine*. It is an American magazine for (1) ..... elderly.
- (2) ..... Japanese are the world's most enthusiastic newspaper readers. *Yomiuri Shimbun* sells more than 14 million copies every day.
- The most popular daily newspaper in Britain is (3) ..... *Sun*, which sells over 3 million copies.
- One of the most unusual magazines is *The Big Issue*, which is sold by (4) ..... homeless on the streets of London and other towns in the UK.
- (5) ..... *Variety* is an international magazine that specialises in news about (6) ..... cinema.
- In many countries magazines that give information about (7) ..... television are very popular. Americans buy several million copies of (8) ..... *TV Guide* each week.

## Answers

### UNIT 3

**1** I come from <sup>a</sup> close family. I've got two sisters and a brother. Emily's the eldest sister. She's **a** dentist and she's **a** lovely person. Caroline is **a** student. She's studying French at university. She isn't **a** good student; she prefers to spend her time enjoying herself! My brother has got **an** interesting job, he's **an** architect. He designed **a** beautiful new house for my uncle. I live with my parents in **an** old house in **a** small village. It's **a** quiet place so I'm glad I've got lots of friends on the Internet!

**2** 1 E 2 H 3 D 4 A 5 G 6 C 7 F

**3** 1 the 2 The 3 the 4 the 5 - 6 the  
7 - 8 -