



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

Adapted and modified by

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Banta Learning Articles 3 by K S Sandhu

Banta lives in Bedford and is studying English in the evening classes at the local college. He enjoys his lessons, especially the third one on articles: when to use an article or no article at all.

One day, Banta decided to visit his old friend Reeta, who lives in Lisbon. He booked a cheap flight with easyJet. The instructions were clear: "When you get to Stansted Airport, check in at 8.45 a.m. and go to Gate 56 for flight EZ1221." Banta arrived early at the airport. He went to check-in desk 3A and showed his passport. After that, he walked through security and found Gate 56. There, he met the tour guide, Reena, who greeted everyone with a big smile. "Welcome! I'm Reena, and I'll take care of you in Portugal," she said.

The flight was smooth, and soon they landed at Lisbon Airport. From there, a bus took them to the hotel. All the rooms were on the third floor, with great views of the River Tagus. Banta opened the window and admired the wide river and the colourful buildings on the other side. "What a beautiful city!" he thought.

In the afternoon, the group visited the Gulbenkian Museum. The museum has an amazing collection of art from all periods, especially the eighteenth century. Banta loved the paintings and sculptures. He learned that Mr Gulbenkian was a rich man who collected beautiful things from Asia, Europe, and Africa.

At 6.00 p.m., Reena brought everyone back to the hotel. "You have an hour and a half to relax before dinner," she said. Banta went to his room, had a shower, and rested on the bed. He felt tired but excited.

Later in the evening, he was free to explore the centre of Lisbon on foot. He walked along narrow streets and arrived at Rossio Square. There were many people, cafés, and street musicians. Banta sat at a table outside and ordered a coffee. He watched tourists and locals walking by.

Suddenly, he saw Reeta! She was walking with her dog. "Banta! Is that really you?" she shouted. They hugged and laughed. "I didn't know you were coming today!" Reeta said.

They spent the evening together. They talked about old times and new plans. Reeta showed him her favourite places: a small bookshop near Praça do Comércio and a bakery that sells the best pastéis de nata.

At midnight, Banta returned to the hotel. He was happy and a little exhausted. "Travelling teaches you so much," he thought. "And English helps me make new memories."

The next morning, he flew back to England. On the plane, he reviewed his notes from the lesson on articles. He smiled because now he understood better: no article before Lisbon, Stansted Airport, Gate 56, or English, but the before River Tagus and the museum.

Banta felt more confident. His trip to Lisbon was not only fun – it was a real lesson in life and grammar.

Questions:

Question 1: Where does Banta live, and what is he studying in the evening?

Question 2: What is the number of the flight that Banta took to Lisbon?

Question 3: On which floor are all the hotel rooms, and what can you see from the windows?

Question 4: Which museum did the group visit in the afternoon, and what is it famous for?

Question 5: How did Banta explore the centre of Lisbon in the evening, and who did he meet there by chance?

Answers:

Answer 1: Banta lives in Bedford, and he is studying English in the evening classes at the local college.

Answer 2: The flight number is EZ1221.

Answer 3: All the hotel rooms are on the third floor, and they have great views of the River Tagus.

Answer 4: The group visited the Gulbenkian Museum. It has an amazing collection of art from all periods, especially the eighteenth century.

Answer 5: He explored the centre of Lisbon on foot, and he met his friend Reeta there by chance (in Rossio Square).

4 Article or no article?

1 No article

We don't usually use *a/an* or *the* with:

| | |
|--|---|
| people's names and titles | <i>David Mr Brown Professor Smith Uncle John</i> |
| named shops and companies | <i>Harrods Tesco Microsoft United Airlines</i> |
| cities, towns, states and regions | <i>London Sydney Madrid Florida Tuscany</i> |
| most countries and continents | <i>Russia Japan Turkey Australia Asia Europe Africa</i> |
| mountains, hills and lakes | <i>Mount Vesuvius Box Hill Lake Placid</i> |
| most roads, streets, squares and parks | <i>Park Lane Oxford Street Trafalgar Square Times Square Central Park (BUT <i>the</i> M25 <i>the</i> high street)</i> |
| named airports and stations | <i>Miami Airport Birmingham Bus Station Victoria Station</i> |
| schools, universities, etc. | <i>Bradford Grammar School Yale University</i> |
| times, days and months | <i>at three o'clock at midday on Monday in December</i> |
| languages, school subjects and sports | <i>English Polish history basketball tennis football</i> |
| means of transport and communication | <i>by train by bus by email by phone (BUT <i>on</i> foot and <i>in</i> person)</i> |
| meals | <i>What time is dinner? Let's meet after lunch. (BUT <i>a</i> snack)</i> |
| nouns + numbers | <i>Go to check-in 3A. I'm in Room 334. Look at page 98.</i> |

We don't use an article for: *at home, at work, in bed, at school*

2 *the*

We usually use *the* with:

| | |
|--|---|
| names of oceans, seas, rivers, mountain ranges | <i>the Atlantic Ocean the Black Sea the Seine the Nile the Himalayas the Alps</i> |
| countries with plural names, Republic, Kingdom, etc. | <i>the United States the Netherlands the Republic of Ireland the United Kingdom</i> |
| organisations | <i>The International Monetary Fund the World Bank</i> |
| names of museums, cinemas, theatres, hotels | <i>the Getty Museum the Odeon Cinema the National Theatre the Ritz Hotel</i> |
| places in a town, types of shops | <i>the bank the hospital the post office the station the supermarket the chemist's</i> |
| locations | <i>on the left/right in the middle on the coast/border in the east/north/south/west</i> |
| parts of a building | <i>the ground floor the fifth floor the exit the entrance</i> |
| times of the day | <i>in the morning in the afternoon in the evening (BUT <i>at</i> night)</i> |
| historical periods | <i>the nineteenth century the 1950s the Middle Ages</i> |
| musical instruments (British English) | <i>Does she play the guitar? Can you play the violin?</i> |
| noun + of | <i>the House of Commons the University of London The Isle of Man</i> |

3 *a/an*

We use *a/an* to mean

- *one* with fractions and large numbers: *half a kilometre, one and a half, a thousand*
- *each* for frequency (how often) and measurements: *once a day, twice a month (BUT *every* hour), six euros a kilo, 100 kilometres an hour*

Practice

1 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 0 I won't be able to see you in | A a year. |
| 1 It can be quite cold here at | B the left. |
| 2 The heart of a healthy adult beats 70 times | C the afternoon. |
| 3 We go on holiday three times | D a minute. |
| 4 The speed of light is 300 million metres | E night. |
| 5 Our house is the one on | F a second. |

2 GRAMMAR IN USE Read the conversation and choose the correct words in *italics*.

2.08 Listen and check.

- MANAGER What's my diary like for next week?
 ASSISTANT Pretty busy. You're travelling to (0) *the Manchester* / *Manchester* on (1) *the Monday* / *Monday*.
 MANAGER From (2) *the Euston* / *Euston* Station?
 ASSISTANT Yes. The train leaves at 8.15 in (3) *the morning* / *morning*. You have an appointment with (4) *the Mr* / *Mr* Grey at 11.30. He's our manager for (5) *the United* / *United* Kingdom.
 MANAGER Where am I meeting him?
 ASSISTANT At (6) *the Carlton* / *Carlton* Hotel, in (7) *the centre* / *centre* of Manchester. It's in (8) *the St Peter's* / *St Peter's* Square. He said he would wait for you near (9) *the entrance* / *entrance* of the hotel. He wants to talk to you about the contract.
 MANAGER The one that begins in (10) *the December* / *December* ?
 ASSISTANT Yes, and I've made an appointment for you in (11) *the afternoon* / *afternoon* at (12) *the bank* / *bank*.

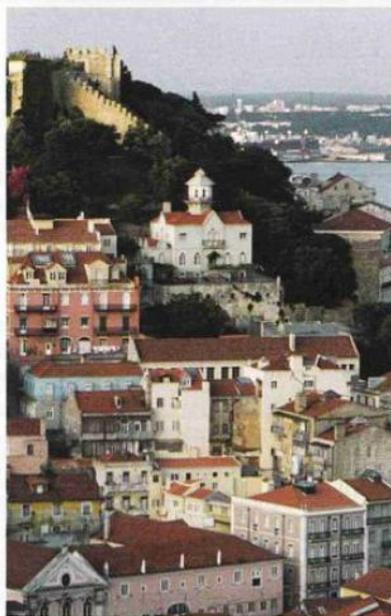
3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the information with *a, an, the* or *-* (no article).

2.09 Listen and check.

Newman's Tours

Lisbon Highlights Day 1

- When you get to (0) Stansted Airport check in at (1) 8.45 a.m. and go to (2) Gate 56 for (3) flight EZ1221. Our tour guide, Katrina, will be there to greet you.
 - Arrive at our hotel – all our rooms are on (4) third floor with great views of (5) River Tagus.
 - In (6) afternoon we will visit (7) Gulbenkian Museum. The museum has an amazing collection of art from all periods, especially (8) eighteenth century.
- We will take you back to your hotel at 6.00 p.m. and you will have (9) hour and (10) half to relax before (11) dinner.
- Later in (12) evening you will be free to explore (13) centre of (14) Lisbon on (15) foot.



Answers

UNIT 4

1 1 E 2 D 3 A 4 F 5 B

2 1 Monday 2 Euston 3 the morning 4 Mr
5 the United 6 the Carlton 7 the centre
8 St Peter's 9 the entrance 10 December
11 the afternoon 12 the bank

3 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 the 5 the 6 the 7 the 8 the
9 an 10 a 11 - 12 the 13 the 14 - 15 -