

0.6 Performers

Grammar: Articles

Vocabulary: Culture • The arts

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

- 1 In pairs, list as many types, genres or styles as you can for each category in sixty seconds.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| 1 Art: <i>watercolours</i> , | 4 Dance: |
| 2 Books/Literature: | 5 Music: |
| 3 Cinema: | 6 Theatre: |

- 2 Choose three subjects from Exercise 1 and tell your partner how you feel about them.

Art is really important to me. I enjoy painting with watercolours but not so much with ...

- 3 **CD+1.6 MP3+6** Read the article and choose *a/an*, *the* or $\emptyset$ (no article) to complete it. Then listen and check.

PRE-SHOW RITUALS

In theatres all over ¹*the* / $\emptyset$ London, artists are getting ready to perform. Most of them are too nervous to have ² $\emptyset$ / *a* dinner before the show, so how do they spend the few hours before the show begins? Here, three performers talk about their pre-show rituals.



TINIE TEMPAH is ³*a* / $\emptyset$ singer.

He prepares for a gig in the same way ⁴*an* / *the* athlete gets ready for ⁵*the* / *a* big event. About an hour before the gig, he does a lot of stretching. Sometimes he has ⁶*a* / $\emptyset$ massage.



STEPHEN MANGAN is ⁷*a* / *an* actor.

After six months of doing the same show eight times ⁸*the* / *a* week, ⁹*the* / *a* biggest challenge is getting himself into exactly the same mental state every night. He comes to ¹⁰*a* / *the* theatre, and sometimes he doesn't want to be there. But ¹¹*a* / *the* fact that people are waiting to see him is ¹²*a* / $\emptyset$ great motivating factor.



SARA PASCOE is *a* comedian.

She always gets nervous before a gig. She looks at ¹³*a* / *the* script and tries not to think about ¹⁴ $\emptyset$ / *the* things that could go horribly wrong. She tells herself ¹⁵ $\emptyset$ / *the* positive things like 'Who cares? Even if you're ¹⁶*the* / *a* worst comedian in ¹⁷*a* / *the* world, you've got ¹⁸ $\emptyset$ / *a* boyfriend who you love.'

- 4 Read the article again and match the performers with their main worry a, b or c.

a making mistakes b getting into character c feeling fit

- 5 Read REMEMBER THIS. Complete the cartoon caption with *a/an*, *the* or $\emptyset$ (no article). Then find examples for the rules in the text in Exercise 3.

REMEMBER THIS

Indefinite article *a/an*

- new information when it means 'one of many'
- jobs — *an artist*
- frequency — *twice a day*
- actions with *have* — *have a chat*

Definite article *the*

- known information when the listener knows 'which one(s)'
- places in a town — *the park*
- superlatives — *the best*
- some countries — *the USA, the UK*

No article

- things in general when it means 'all this or all these things'
- meals — *have lunch*
- most countries, continents and cities — *Germany*



Reporter: What's your pre-show ritual?

Singer: Oh, I'm ¹____ singer, not ²____ diva! I just need ³____ cheese, ⁴____ bowl of sweets and some water. ⁵____ cheese must be from ⁶____ France, ⁷____ sweets should be blue and ⁸____ water has to be ⁹____ Swiss spring water served in ¹⁰____ Viennese glass. I'm ¹¹____ least demanding singer in ¹²____ world!

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- 6 In pairs, look at the sentence pairs and explain how the use of different articles changes the meaning.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 a I love listening to music on my phone. | b I love listening to the music on my phone. |
| 2 a I'd like to go to an art exhibition. | b I'd like to go to the art exhibition. |
| 3 a I prefer reading books to watching films. | b I prefer reading the book to watching the film. |

- 7 In pairs, complete the question in eight different ways using the words in the box. Use *a* where necessary. Then ask and answer the questions.

When was the last time you had ... ?

bad day breakfast in bed dream flu
fun lunch at home nap row

When was the last time you had a bad day?