**Article: *the***

**DEFINITE/ SPECIFIC**

***the*** indicates something which is definite,

either because it is known, specified or unique.

* Already mentioned:

*I met a girl and a boy yesterday.* ***The*** *boy was not very nice, but I quite liked* ***the*** *girl.*

* Specified, eg. by means of a relative clause.

*Who was* ***the*** *man talking to you yesterday?*

**UNIQUE**

* Geographically unique

*I enjoy lying in* ***the*** *sun.*

* Situationally unique, Clear from the situation

*Where’s John? He’s in* ***the*** *bathroom* (i.e. this bathroom)

**Unqualified abstract nouns:**

**zero article**

* ***Education*** *in Britain begins when children are four and a half, normally.*
* ***Formal education*** *in Britain begins when children are four and a half, usually.*
* ***Power*** *corrupts and* ***absolute power*** *corrupts absolutely.*

**Qualified abstract nouns: the**

Qualified by

a **defining relative clause** (introduced by who/which/that) or

by the preposition **of + noun phrase**:

* ***The education (that) I received*** *at a bog-standard comprehensive school was substandard.*
* ***The absolute truth of the matter*** *is that* ***abject poverty*** *destroys lives.*
* ***Personal happiness*** *is* ***a basic human right****.*
* ***The happiness (that) I felt*** *when Maureen became pregnant was unqualified.*

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/grammar/learnit/learnitv255.shtml>

1. a. He was given an award for his \_\_(the / ø) \_\_**courage**.

 b. \_\_(the / ø) \_\_ **courage** he showed in the confrontation was admirable

1. a. She thought that \_\_(the / ø) \_\_ **happiness** was the most important thing in life.

 b. She had never imagined \_\_(the / ø) \_\_ **happiness** a child can bring.

1. a. I appreciate \_\_(the / ø) \_\_ **time** you devoted to me.

 b. \_\_(the / ø) \_\_ **Time** is a great teacher.

1. a. His art teacher encourages \_\_(the / ø) \_\_ **creativity**.

 b. He has kept his job because he has \_\_(the / ø) \_\_ **creativity** of a young child.

1. a. He has little trust in \_\_(the / ø) \_\_ **justice system**.

 b. She believed in \_\_(the / ø) \_\_ **justice** above all.

1. a. The poet describes \_\_(the / ø) \_\_ **freedom** he felt when he reached the mountain top.

 b. She craved \_\_(the / ø) \_\_ **freedom**.