**The Article**

 **Exercise 1 *Fill in the blanks with the appropriate article where necessary.***

William Shakespeare, ... greatest English playwright, was born in 1564 in... Stratford-on-Avon in... England. ... Stratford is... small country town in... farming district near ... centre of... England. .... Avon, which is... pretty river with ... grass and... trees all along its banks, runs through ... Stratford. Not much is known of... Shakespeare's father. He was... farmer who, at... different times of his life, sold ... meat and bought and sold... wool. He was poor and was often in... money difficulties. Very little is known about... life of his only son William also. .... little house in which... great writer was born still stands. It is now... museum. William went to... school in... Stratford. In 1586 he went to... London. Probably ... first work he did there was at one of the two theatres that there were in ... London at that time. Then he became ... actor and soon began to write ... plays for... company of actors to which he belonged. Shakespeare bought... largest house in his home town in 1597, but he did not spend much time there till 1610. He spent... last years of his life in …. Stratford, but he often visited … London. He died in 1616.

**Exercise 2 *Choose the right variant.***

1. He crossed\_\_\_stream which was below the pool stepping cautiously from\_\_\_stone to\_\_\_stone.

a) the,\_\_\_,\_\_\_

b) the, the, the

c) а, а, а

d) the, a, a

2. In\_\_\_ spring of\_\_\_following year we went\_\_\_abroad and were absent several months.

a)\_\_\_, the,\_\_\_

b) the, the, the

c)\_\_\_,\_\_\_,\_\_\_

d)the, the\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_day after my talk with Isabel I left\_\_\_Chicago for\_\_\_ San Francisco where I was to take ship for\_\_\_ Far East.

a) a,\_\_\_,\_\_\_,\_\_\_

b) the,\_\_\_,\_\_\_, the

c)\_\_\_, \_\_, the, the

d) the, the, the, the

4. After\_\_\_lunch they sat down under the oak tree drinking\_\_\_Turkish coffee.

a) the, the

b)\_\_\_\_,\_\_\_

c)\_\_, the

d)a, a

5.1 had scarcely got into\_\_\_bed when a strain of \_ music seemed to break forth in\_\_\_air just below my window.

a)\_\_\_,\_\_\_,\_\_\_

b) a,\_\_\_, the

c)the, the,\_\_\_

d) the,\_\_\_, the

6. But after\_\_\_fortnight of\_\_\_bad weather it cleared. "Let's see how\_\_\_weather turns out?" he said and took a chair nearer at\_\_\_hand.

a)\_\_\_,a,\_\_\_, the

b) a, the, the, a

c) a,\_\_\_, the,\_\_\_

d) the, the, the, the

7. At\_\_\_tea, which they both took with\_\_\_lemon, John spoke about\_\_\_Bahamas.

a)\_\_\_, the, the

b)\_,\_\_\_,\_\_\_,

e)\_\_\_,\_\_\_, the

d) the, the, the

8.\_\_\_map of \_\_\_world, until \_\_\_end of \_\_\_ fifteenth century exhibited only\_\_\_one hemisphere, and even that was not completely explored.

a) the, the, the, the, the

b) the,\_\_\_,\_\_\_, the,\_\_\_

c) a, the,\_\_\_,\_\_\_s\_\_\_

d) the, the, the, the,\_\_\_

9. As\_\_\_weather was fine, they had\_\_\_pleasant walk across\_\_\_park which stretched along\_\_\_Thames.

a) the, the, the, the

b)\_\_\_, the, a, the

c) the,\_\_, the,\_\_\_

d) the, a, the, the

10. On\_\_\_first of\_\_\_May, after their last year together at\_\_\_college, Frank and Robert were on\_\_\_ tram.

a) the, the,\_\_\_,\_\_\_

b)\_\_\_,\_\_\_,\_\_\_,the

c) the,\_\_\_,\_\_\_, a

d) the,\_\_\_, the, a

*11. At* that time of\_\_\_year the wild animals —\_\_\_ lion,\_\_\_gazelle and\_\_\_antelope also wander further to \_\_\_south.

a) the, the, the, the, the

b)\_\_\_, a, a, a, the

c) a, the, the, the,\_\_\_

d) the,\_\_\_,\_\_\_,\_\_\_, the

12. After\_\_\_tea Edgar and the brothers received \_\_\_permission to leave\_\_\_table.

a) the, a, the

b)\_\_\_, the,\_\_\_

c)\_\_\_,\_\_\_, the

d)\_\_\_,\_\_\_,\_\_\_

13. "I am in\_\_\_hurry. Turn to\_\_\_left in\_\_\_High Street and drive me down to\_\_\_East End," I ordered taking my seat.

a) a, the, the, the

b)a, the,\_\_\_, the

c)\_\_\_,\_\_\_,\_\_\_,\_\_\_

d) the, a, the, an

14. Through an open window a peak of\_\_\_Balkans, wonderfully white and beautiful in \_\_\_ starlit snow seems quite close at\_\_\_hand.

a)the,the, the

b)the,the,\_\_\_

c)\_\_\_, *a, a*

d) the, a, a

15.\_\_\_great Sahara, that frightful desert of\_\_\_ vast scorching sand, stretching from\_\_\_Red Sea to \_\_\_Atlantic, is cleft by one solitary thread of\_\_\_ water.

a) the,\_\_\_, the, *the,*\_\_\_

b)\_\_\_, a, the, the, the

c) the, the, the,\_\_\_,\_\_\_

d)\_\_\_,\_\_\_,\_\_\_, the, the

16. It was\_\_\_late evening, and after\_\_\_lamp-heated air of\_\_\_dining-room,\_\_\_coolness of\_\_\_night was delicious.

a) a, a, the,\_\_\_,\_\_\_

b)the, the, the, the,the

c)\_\_\_,\_\_\_, a,\_\_\_, a

d)\_\_\_, the, the, the, the

17, He walked into\_\_\_Green Park that he might cross to\_\_\_Victoria Station and take\_\_\_underground into\_\_\_City.

a) the,\_\_\_, the, the

b)the,the, the, the

c)\_\_\_,\_\_\_,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d)\_\_\_,\_\_\_, an,\_\_\_

18.\_\_\_rice,\_\_\_jute,\_\_\_indigo,\_\_\_opium oilseeds, and\_\_\_tea are\_\_\_principle articles which come into export trade from\_\_\_Calcutta.

a)\_\_\_,\_\_\_,.\_\_\_,\_\_\_\_\_\_the,\_\_\_

b) the, the, the, the, the, the,\_\_\_

c)\_\_\_,\_\_\_,\_\_\_the,\_\_\_,\_\_\_, the

d) the, the, the,\_\_\_, the,----,-----

19. They reached\_\_\_outskirts of\_\_\_forest, and saw\_\_lights of\_\_\_village in which they dwelled.

a)\_\_\_, a,\_\_\_, a,

b)the,the,the,the

c)\_\_\_, the, the, the

d) the, the, the, a

20. "\_\_\_telephone may quicken some of\_\_\_labours, but it hardly lightens them, since by its power to interrupt it usually wastes quite as much time as it otherwise saves," he said with\_\_\_laughter.

a) a, the, the

b) the,\_\_\_, a

c)\_\_\_, the,\_\_\_

d) the, the,\_\_\_