



UNIT 10

Les articles / Social issues - Health

1 - Verbs and prepositions.

Complete the following sentences with the suitable preposition. Answers are provided in the Key at the end of the unit.

1. I am awfully sorry _____ the farmers. They have suffered so much _____ the drought. They might not ever succeed _____ recovering from the losses.
2. "I'm off to London to the meeting tomorrow. I'll report back _____ any progress."
3. "Good. Make sure you report _____ me only".
4. The police were sent _____ immediately after the accident.
5. The teacher was very satisfied _____ his pupils' progress.
6. He seems firmly set _____ an acting career. We can't talk him _____ it.
7. The letter is written _____ English. I need to have it translated _____ French.
8. I waited _____ the bus _____ ten minutes. Buses are subject _____ long delays these days.
9. "Are you bored ? You keep staring _____ your watch." "That's not true I merely glanced _____ it !"
10. The employees were unaware _____ the factory's relocation plan. They eventually grew tired _____ the management's lies. They were not true _____ their promises.
11. "I am worrying _____ the report, it is due tomorrow." "I am working _____ it !"

2.a – Grammar : Les articles.

✓ L'article the

Comparez :

☞ I'm very fond of **books** (1a)

The books I bought yesterday are very interesting (1b)

☞ He likes **coffee** a lot (2a)

The coffee he gave us was excellent (2b)

L'article *the* ne s'emploie généralement pas devant des dénombrables pluriels (1a) et les indéénombrables (2a) quand on exprime des généralités. La présence de *the* en (1b) se justifie par la proposition [I bought yesterday] qui détermine le sens de ' books' et la présence de *the* en (2 b) se justifie par [he gave us] qui précise le sens de 'coffee'.

De même dans 'This is **the Paris** of my youth', l'article *the* devant Paris ne se justifie que par le complément [my youth] introduit par *of*.

☛ On dira **the** United States (is), **the** United Kingdom mais **Ø** America, **Ø** Great-Britain etc.

✓ L'article a/an

A la différence du français, l'anglais utilise *a/an* devant les noms de métiers (she is **a** teacher), les distributifs (she comes once **a** week) et après les prépositions (she went out without **an** umbrella).

Retenez que l'article *a/an* ne s'emploie pas devant les indéénombrables (**Ø** time is money) à l'exception de What **a** pity ! , What **a** shame !. On ne dira donc pas ~~a furniture~~ (un meuble) mais *a piece of furniture*. De même que l'on ne dira pas ~~few furniture~~ mais *much furniture*. On peut en revanche utiliser *the* lorsque l'indénombrable est déterminé (**the** furniture I bought is made of solid wood).

☛ **aux indéénombrables pluriels !** Ces substantifs ont toujours une forme de pluriel, mais il n'est pas possible de les dénombrer. (On peut parfois, selon les noms plus ou moins les quantifier). On pourra donc dire : She was wearing nice clothes mais pas ~~a nice clothe~~. Au nombre de ces substantifs, il y a : *belongings, customs, damages, goods, holidays, looks* etc.

☛ **aux collectifs !** Ce sont des noms dénombrables (*army, company, crew, couple, family, firm, government, group, press, staff, team* etc.) qui peuvent s'accorder soit au singulier, si l'on considère le groupe dans son unité, soit au pluriel si l'on veut insister sur les membres qui constituent ce groupe.

Retenez : ☞ **The government, which is** elected (l'institution) by a simple majority, is....

☞ **The government , who are** hoping (membres du gouvernement) to curb taxes soon,....

☛ **aux collectifs obligatoires !!!** Ce sont des noms (*cattle, people, police* etc.) qui permettent le dénombrement mais l'accord du verbe se fait au pluriel.

☞ **The police are** looking for a fair-haired man in his teens.

1. _____ people we met on our journey were very welcoming and friendly.
a/ the c/ a
b/ Ø
2. Did you see _____ Queen Elizabeth on _____ television last Thursday ?
a/ the/ the c/ the/ Ø
b/ Ø / Ø
3. This novel was translated from _____ English by our best friend.
a/ Ø c/ an
b/ the
4. It was _____ last Sunday of our holidays.
a/ the c/ a
b/ Ø
5. I read in *Le Monde* that the main speech was delivered by _____ Prime Minister in _____ Parliament.
a/ the / the c/ Ø / the
b/ the / Ø
6. They gave us _____ pretty good advice.
a/ a c/ few
b/ some
7. 'You made such _____ fuss _____ last night'
a/ a / the c/ Ø/ Ø
b/ a / Ø
8. He has so _____ knowledge about the subject !
a/ few c/ many
b/ little
9. _____ pollution is one of our biggest worries.
a/ the c/ a
b/ Ø
10. He was fascinated by _____ history of _____ mankind.
a/ Ø/ Ø c/ the/ Ø
b/ Ø/ the

§1 The United States is not a **Welfare State** as Britain has been since the Beveridge Report. The British State commits to taking care of the subjects "from the cradle to the grave". The **National Health Service** (NHS), *however*, is in dire straits and the successive cabinets have both fueled huge amounts of money to support it and endeavored to reform it. As a result a **two-tier system** has emerged: the rich can afford private medical practice while the poor have to suffer from long waits to get treated or operated.

The number of Americans without health insurance increased from 44.8 million (15.3%) in 2005 to 47 million in 2006 (15.8%). And only half of the American population is covered by employment-based health insurance. Others, *although* they work, have no coverage for themselves and their families. They are too well-off to qualify for the federal programme of Medicaid, and are too underprivileged to afford a private insurance: they are the "**working poor**". **Medicaid** was created to help to poorest, while **Medicare** was designed for the elderly who often have modest pensions. Along with **food stamps** for the needy, they are inherited from the Great Society Programme implemented by President Lyndon B. Johnson and his "war on poverty" in the 1960s. They have been significantly cut, *however*, under Reagan and

Clinton. In the spirit of American individualism, people should be responsible for themselves and not live on welfare benefits and rely on relief only.

§2 Health is also a *bone of contention* in the U.S as far as research is concerned. The current experiments on the cloning on stem cells have gathered much interest and debate. **Genetic engineering** could allow to cure degenerative diseases such as cancer by cloning the damaged cells. Indeed **therapeutic cloning** is concerned with exploiting the potential of **stem cells** that are said to replace any kind of cell. They are obtained, *however*, from embryos, and this has *raised an outcry* in American society. In the name of the respect of life, the Bush administration has *thus* banned federal grants for such a research. One should remember that therapeutic cloning is not reproductive cloning (witness the infamous sheep Dolly) and finding new medical remedies does not amount to playing Frankenstein and tinkering with DNA. The same debate goes for **Genetically Modified Organism (GMO)**: are they likely to improve crops for the most desperate in the world or profits for great companies? Do they bring along solutions or new dangers?