

1 Complete the groups of sentences with a different article (*the*, *a(n)* or *-*) in each sentence A, B and C.

- 1 **A** Have you been to the cinema recently?
B Have you heard? There's a new cinema opening soon.
C I think - cinemas are getting more expensive.
- 2 **A** Chloe often wears - trousers to school.
B Chloe often wears - trousers you gave her to school.
C The company began life as - trouser manufacturer.
- 3 **A** Jess is not very interested in - science.
B Jess's dad is - science teacher.
C Biology is - science of living systems.
- 4 **A** Bruno is - little impatient this morning.
B Sometimes Bruno has - very little patience.
C I'm amazed at - patience you have with Bruno.
- 5 **A** Jörn stupidly dropped his phone in - ocean.
B The Pacific isn't a lake, it's - ocean!
C - ocean waves can often be enormous.
- 6 **A** I want to change - furniture in my room.
B I'm going shopping for - furniture tomorrow.
C There's - furniture shop at the end of my road.

2 Read the pairs of sentences and decide if they have a similar (S) or different (D) meaning. Explain the differences.

- 1 **A** My sisters give me little help when I need it.
B My sisters give me a little help when I need it. D
In A they don't give much help (the speaker has a negative view), in B they give some help (the speaker has a positive view).
- 2 **A** My friends and I use plenty of slang words.
B My friends and I use lots of slang words.
- 3 **A** There were few good places to go cycling.
B There were a few good places to go cycling.
- 4 **A** Do you want any chocolate?
B Do you want some chocolate?
- 5 **A** Several passengers were stuck overnight at the airport.
B A large number of passengers were stuck overnight at the airport.

- 6 **A** I've got some free time on Sunday.
B I've got plenty of free time on Sunday.

3 Put a tick (✓) if the sentence is correct or a cross (✗) if it is incorrect. Correct the mistakes.

- 1 We saw a plenty of wild animals when we went to the USA. ✗
We saw plenty of wild animals when we went to the USA.
- 2 There were a few slang words that I didn't understand.
- 3 I really like the animals but I can't have pet because I'm allergic to they.
- 4 It's a lot of hot today.
- 5 It rained all afternoon so the amusement park wasn't much fun.
- 6 I spend many time playing video games – three hours per day.

4 Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 For this recipe you only need a small (amount) / number / piece of sugar.
- 2 Sadly, there are few / a few / lots of opportunities for people like me.
- 3 They can afford it! They've got plenty of / a few / little money.
- 4 A large number / lots / amount of people watched my presentation.
- 5 I had a little / little / few to lose, so I just tried my best, and I won!
- 6 In the end I didn't have some / any / a bit of problems translating it.

5a Cross out the incorrect determiners. Sometimes both options are correct.

Recently, ¹ ~~the~~ / a few people have told me that they have ² a few / little problems understanding me when I speak. That's because, a couple of weeks ago I started wearing ³ a / the brace on my teeth. It's not ⁴ the / – most comfortable thing in ⁵ the / a world, I admit, but ⁶ a large number of / plenty of teenagers, like myself, have to wear one to straighten their teeth. It took ⁷ a little / a few time to get used to. At the beginning it was ⁸ a lot of / a bit painful, but now, after two weeks, it's causing me very ⁹ little / many discomfort. ¹⁰ The / a only problem is that my 's's sound ¹¹ a bit / a little funny!

5b For the text in 5a, where possible, write another determiner that could be used.

1 = plenty of

1

- 2 **A** – **B** the **C** a
 3 **A** – **B** a **C** the
 4 **A** a **B** – **C** the
 5 **A** the **B** an **C** –
 6 **A** the **B** – **C** a

2

- 2 S
 3 D In **A**, there weren't many places (the speaker has a negative view), in **B** there were some places (the speaker has a positive view).
 4 S
 5 D In **A**, a few people were stuck, in **B** lots of people were stuck.
 6 D In **A**, the speaker has a bit of free time, in **B** the speaker has lots of free time.

3

- 2 ✓
 3 × I really like **animals** but I can't have a **pet/pets** because I'm allergic to **them**.
 4 × It's **very/really** hot today.
 5 ✓
 6 × I spend **lots of/a lot of** time playing video games – three hours per day.

4

- 2 few
 3 plenty of
 4 number
 5 little
 6 any

5a and b

- 1 ~~the~~ / a few (plenty of / lots of / a lot of / many)
 2 a few / ~~little~~ (some / plenty of / lots of / a lot of / many)
 3 a / ~~the~~
 4 the / (zero article is incorrect)
 5 the / a
 6 a large number of / plenty of (lots of)
 7 a little / ~~a few~~ (a bit of / some)
 8 ~~a lot of~~ / a bit (a little)
 9 little / ~~many~~
 10 The / a
 11 a bit / a little

(Other possible determiners are in brackets.)