

Articles

1 Fill the gaps with *the*, *an*, *a* or leave a blank. Then choose the correct rule in each case. The first one is done as an example.

- 1 There are usually 90 undergraduate engineering students each year in our university and approximately one in six of these are ___ women. (*nothing – Rule 9*)
- 2 The bacteria work at high temperatures and this process produces methane. ___¹ methane can then be used to heat the water so it becomes ___² self-sufficient process.
- 3 There are two types of undergraduate engineering degrees in this university. ___³ MEng lasts for four years and is equivalent to ___⁴ undergraduate degree plus ___⁵ Master's degree. ___⁶ BEng lasts for three years and is purely undergraduate. Students need to do ___⁷ Master's degree for one year to make this into a postgraduate qualification.
- 4 ___⁸ Bangladesh, ___⁹ Tanzania and ___¹⁰ UK all have geological problems with natural pollutants in the environment.
- 5 ___¹¹ worst case of environmental pollution in recent history is probably still ___¹² Chernobyl disaster.
- 6 Using clay pots to filter water can help ___¹³ people clean their own water using ___¹⁴ cheap local products.

Rule 1	a / an	when we mention something (a singular noun) for the first time
Rule 2	a / an	when something is just one example of many
Rule 3	the	when we refer to something that has been mentioned before
Rule 4	the	with the names of some countries
Rule 5	the	with the names of some geographical features
Rule 6	the	with superlatives
Rule 7	the	when there is only one of something
Rule 8	the	when we know which thing the speaker/writer refers to
Rule 9	nothing	with general plural countable nouns
Rule 10	nothing	when we refer to something (a plural noun) for the first time
Rule 11	nothing	with the names of towns and cities, and most countries