



# 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.

## 2.b – Exercises : Choisissez la réponse qui convient.

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

## 3-a - Key Issues : SOCIAL ISSUES – HEALTH.

**§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 ?