



THE SIGHTS OF STRATFORD



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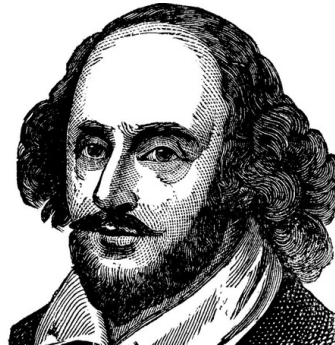
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1

Warm up

Use these words to complete the sentences about William Shakespeare.



actor audiences author comedies plays poem stage theatre

1. William Shakespeare was an English _____ who lived in the 16th and 17th centuries.
2. Some of the most famous _____ in English were by Shakespeare.
3. He wrote about history, as well as sad tragedies and funny _____ .
4. For some of his life, he worked at a _____ in London called The Globe.
5. Shakespeare was not only a writer, he was also an _____ .
6. _____ have always loved the stories that he tells.
7. If you want to see some of his work on _____ , you should visit the town of Stratford-upon-Avon.
8. Shakespeare also wrote more than 150 sonnets, which are a type of _____ .

What else do you know about Shakespeare or about his hometown, Stratford-upon-Avon?



2 Reading

Read the article about Stratford-upon-Avon and answer the questions.

Who wrote this article?

1. _____

How long does the article suggest that you spend in the town?

2. _____

How many houses does the article describe?

3. _____

How old was Shakespeare when he died?

4. _____

Where can you see a play in the town?

5. _____

Work in A/B pairs. Read the article again and match the words/phrases in bold with their meanings below. Then explain your words to your partner.

Student A

- 1. things that make people want to visit a place _____
- 2. the exact place where something is or was, or where something happened _____
- 3. pieces of art that are made from wood, stone or metal _____
- 4. like lots of other similar things, as we would expect _____

Student B

- 1. the town, street or house where someone was born _____
- 2. the land that is attached to a big house or other large building _____
- 3. an enjoyable journey on a ship or boat _____
- 4. with spirits or ghosts appearing often _____

Do you think you would enjoy a day out in Stratford-upon-Avon? Why/not?



Visit Stratford-upon-Avon

A tour guide describes its top attractions

1. Stratford-upon-Avon, around 100 miles northwest of London, is where William Shakespeare was born and lived for some of his life. You'll have a great day exploring the town.
2. The first house you'll want to visit is the **birthplace** of Shakespeare. You can see the bedroom where he was born in April 1564. There's also a garden where he played with his brothers and sisters.
3. Then you should visit the **site** of New Place, the house where Shakespeare lived from 1597 until he died in 1616. The house itself burned down 250 years ago, but the **grounds** are very beautiful. In one of the gardens at New Place, there are **sculptures** about some of his many plays.
4. There are several other houses which belonged to Shakespeare and his family, but if you have children, the best place to spend an afternoon is Mary Arden's farmhouse. This is where Shakespeare's mother grew up and it's now a working farm with horses, cows, donkeys, rabbits, and more.
5. If you like going to the theatre, there are three to choose from in Stratford-upon-Avon! The Royal Shakespeare Theatre has a restaurant on the top floor. If you have dinner there, you get a beautiful view over the river Avon.
6. And if your feet hurt after walking around town, try a river **cruise**. The cruise costs under £10 and lasts 40 minutes. Boats leave three times an hour.
7. Another way to relax at the end of your day in Stratford-upon-Avon is to visit a **typical** old pub. The Old Thatch Tavern dates back to 1470 and people say it's **haunted** by the ghost of a man who died on Christmas Day in 1795!
8. Stratford-upon-Avon has so much to offer visitors. You'll never forget the day that you visited this magical place.

Sources: shakespeare.org.uk; oldthatchtavernstratford.co.uk





3 Language point

In English, we often need to give some information about the nouns in our sentences by using articles like *a/an* or *the*. Read the information about when and how we use these articles and complete the activities.

1. **A tour guide** describes its top attractions.
2. You'll have **a great day** exploring the town.
3. Boats leave three times **an hour**.
4. Another way to relax at the end of your time in Stratford-upon-Avon is to visit **a typical old pub**.

These sentences use the indefinite article *a/an*. We use *a/an* with singular countable nouns. Use *an* when the noun that follows it begins with a vowel sound, like in sentence 3.

We use *a/an* the first time we talk about something. Match these other uses of *a/an* with the example sentences.

1. to talk about a thing that we see as being one of many similar things
2. to talk about someone's job
3. in some expressions that tell us how often something happens

1. The first house that you'll want to visit is **the birthplace of Shakespeare**.
2. The house itself burned down 250 years ago, but **the grounds** are very beautiful.
3. If you have children, **the best place** to spend an afternoon is Mary Arden's farmhouse.
4. If you like going to **the theatre**, there are three to choose from in Stratford-upon-Avon!

These sentences use the definite article *the*. We can use *the* with any type of noun.

Match these uses of *the* with the example sentences.

1. when there is only one of these things in the world
2. with superlative adjectives
3. when we know which thing or person you mean
4. with some places in a town

And if your feet hurt after walking around town, try **a river cruise**. **The cruise** costs under £10 and lasts 40 minutes.



Notice how we use *a/an* the first time we mention something, but after that we use *the* to refer to the same thing. Why do you think we do this?

1. **Stratford-upon-Avon**, around 100 miles northwest of **London**, is where **William Shakespeare** was born and lived for some of his life.
2. This is where Shakespeare's mother grew up and it's now a working farm with **horses, cows, donkeys, rabbits**, and more.
3. If you **have dinner** there, you get a beautiful view over the river.

In these sentences, *no articles* are used before the nouns in bold. When this happens, we call it *zero article*.

Match these uses of zero article with the example sentences.

1. when we are talking about something in general
2. with personal names and most place names
3. with meals

Does your language have articles? If so, are they used in the same way as in English?



4

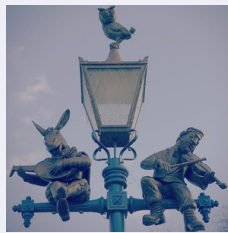
Practice

Read this information about another attraction in Stratford-upon-Avon and choose the best option to complete the sentences. (– means *zero article*.) Explain your choice.



(1) **The** / – visitors to Stratford will also have fun seeing special lamp posts in (2) **a** / **the** town's streets and theatre gardens. (3) **The** / – lamp posts were gifts from 41 cities and countries around (4) **the** / **a** world. They show where Stratford's many tourists come from. (5) **The** / – idea for the lamp posts came from (6) **the** / – Keith Brodie, (7) **an** / – engineer with the local government.

One of (8) – / **the** most interesting lamp posts is from (9) – / **an** Israel. It shows three figures including (10) **a** / **an** man with a donkey's head. (11) **The** / **A** man is (12) **the** / **a** character from Shakespeare's play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



5

Writing

You are going to practise using articles in a short piece of writing. First, choose one of these subjects to write about. Then plan what you want to say by making notes of key words only - do not write full sentences.

- **A time when you saw a play** - say what the name of the play was, when and where you saw it, and what it was about. You should also say if you enjoyed it or not and why.
- **A town in your country that has interesting historic buildings** - say the name of the town and its location, what types of buildings it has and how old the buildings are. You should also recommend one particular place to visit.
- **A famous writer in your country/language** - say the name of the writer and when they lived, what sort of things they have written and why they're so famous. You should also recommend one thing by this author to read.

Practise speaking about this topic in your head. Pay special attention to the articles: *a/an, the* and *zero article*.

Now work with a classmate. Take turns to present your topic. Ask questions if something is not clear. Is your partner using articles correctly?



Write about your topic in 50-75 words. Check your use of articles carefully. Then give your writing to your teacher to check.

Tip

It's a good idea to double-space your writing if your teacher is going to mark it. This means write on one line and then leave the next line free, so your teacher has space to make comments and correction.

6 Extra practice/homework

Read about Shakespeare's education. Ten articles are missing - find the places where they go and write them in. There are five indefinite articles (a/an) and five definite articles (the) missing.



Shakespeare's father, John Shakespeare, was glove maker. He had enough money to send William to school when he was seven years old. At that time, girls did not go to school, so there were only boys there. Shakespeare learned Latin and studied stories from the Romans and the Greeks. All the students sat on bench to study together.

Today, modern school still uses room where Shakespeare had his classes. Once year, best student in school visits Shakespeare's grave to put new pen in hand of statue there.

Find examples in the text of zero (no) articles.



7

Optional extension

Many expressions that we still use today come from Shakespeare's plays. Read these examples and match them with when we might say them. The examples have been rephrased in modern English.

1. ...those (people) that understood him smiled at each other and shook their heads; but ... **it was Greek to me.** (Julius Caesar)
 2. Beware of jealousy! It is **the green-eyed monster**, which feeds on people. (Othello)
 3. But **love is blind**, and lovers cannot see the silly things they do when they're in love. (The Merchant of Venice)
 4. Rosalind: Now tell me, how long will you stay with her once she is yours? / Orlando: **Forever and a day.** (As you like it)
 5. You must be the man who helps us all, and if you **break the ice**, marry the older sister and find a way for us to start dating the younger sister, we will all be grateful. (The Taming of the Shrew)
- a. when something is too difficult for us to understand
 - b. when we feel angry and upset that someone has something that we want
 - c. when we mean for a very long time
 - d. when we need to start doing something difficult (we also use this when we talk about meeting new people)
 - e. when we see a couple and we cannot understand why they're together

Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups.

1. When was the last time that something was *all Greek to you*?
2. The last time you met someone new, how did you *break the ice*?
3. Think of something you'd like to do or have *forever and a day*.
4. When have you felt that *the green-eyed monster* was with you?
5. Can you think of a celebrity couple where *love seems to be blind*?