

Article Practice 4

key

Directions: Fill in the blanks with “x” for no article or use “a/an” or “the” as required. Note that more than one answer may work in some cases. Then, underline all count nouns and double underline all non-count nouns that correspond to your article choices.

 Count nouns

 Non-count nouns

1. x autism, a neurological developmental disorder most often first identified in x toddlers, may be further defined according to its causes, symptoms and treatment methods.
2. The exact causes of autism are unknown. The disorder is, however, related to x biological factors, none of which are unique to autism.
3. x prenatal factors, including x/the chromosomal and brain abnormalities associated with lack of oxygen at birth, are strongly suspected to be related to autism.
4. x studies suggest that autism is likely to be linked to x tuberous sclerosis, an inherited disease of the nervous system, and/or phenylketonuria, an inherited disorder of metabolism.
5. x environmental factors may also play a role; exposure to x toxic elements could cause or exacerbate x/the problems related to x autism.
6. A number of x symptoms characterize this condition.
7. The areas most affected are the brain, intestines and immune system.
8. Approximately 75% of x autistic persons are mentally retarded.
9. Most of them also have problems with x eye contact and suffer from x rigid or flaccid muscle tone while being held.
10. The most obvious symptoms, though, are behavior-related: x absent or poorly developed verbal and nonverbal communication, x abnormal socialization skills, and x unusual or severely limited activities and interests that can be self-destructive.
11. Although it is not curable, x autism can be treated.
12. x/the symptoms often improve as children start to acquire x language and learn to communicate.