

Article Practice 4

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.

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