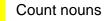
## **Article Practice 4**



**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.



Non-count nouns

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