

ARTICLES

1. Study the *General rules*

- The Indefinite article **a/an** derived from *one* and thus is used with **singular countable** nouns in the meaning **one or any (one) of the kind**.
- The definite article **the** derived from *this* and thus is used with **countable, singular and plural**, and **uncountable** nouns in the meaning **that particular or unique**.
- No article/zero article** is used before **plural uncountable** and **countable** nouns in **generic sense** or with **abstract nouns**.
- There are separate rules of the use of articles with *Proper/Personal* nouns.
- There are some *set expressions* to look up in a dictionary and remember.
- The articles are only used before nouns; if there are adjectives before a noun, the article is put before the adjective(s).
- When there are two or more nouns, the article may refer to the whole group and be used once.

2. Analyse and discuss with your teacher the examples. Make your own notes so you can use the table.

notes	a/an	the	zero
<i>mentioning/naming things</i>	1) I eat <u>a</u> n orange every day. 2) Make me <u>a</u> nice cup of tea, will you? 3) <u>A</u> n orange juice and <u>a</u> mineral water please. 4) I've got <u>a</u> sister. She's got <u>a</u> son and <u>a</u> daughter. 5) You have <u>a</u> point here.	1) Have you eaten <u>the</u> orange I left on the table? 2) Thank you for <u>the</u> tea! It was refreshing. 3) Who is <u>the</u> juice for? How was <u>the</u> (=your) fish? Mine was great! 4) <u>The</u> sister of yours gave me a very nasty time! 5) <u>The</u> interesting point is that most people....	1) I don't eat <u>o</u> ranges and I'm allergic to <u>l</u> imes. 2) Do you like <u>g</u> reen tea? 3) Let us not take <u>o</u> lives! Let's take <u>i</u> ce-cream for <u>d</u> essert. 4) I've got <u>t</u> wo sisters. <u>O</u> lder siblings often take control. 5) There is no <u>p</u> oint in discussing it now.
<i>speaking in general</i>	1) <u>A</u> planet is <u>a</u> celestial body larger than <u>a</u> n asteroid or <u>a</u> comet. 2) <u>A</u> cat will never scratch <u>a</u> baby.	1) <u>The</u> planets of the Solar system orbit the sun. 2) <u>The</u> tiger is the largest cat species.	1) <u>S</u> cientists may discover <u>f</u> arther planets in the 21 st century. 2) <u>T</u> igers are lazy: they only hunt when hungry.
<i>with Adverbial Modifiers of Place</i>	1) There is <u>a</u> big table in my living-room. 2) I'd like to celebrate my birthday in <u>a</u> cafe. 3) You can walk around in <u>a</u> n amazingly quiet countryside. 4) Eton is <u>a</u> n all-boys boarding school. 5) "I need <u>a</u> home, someone to love..." (D. Gordon)	1) The bed is to <u>the</u> left of <u>the</u> window. 2) Let's go to <u>the</u> cinema. 3) They live in <u>the</u> countryside in <u>the</u> North of England. 4) I went to <u>the</u> school to talk to the teacher. 5) 10 Dawning Street is <u>the</u> home of <u>the</u> British Prime Minister	1) Chests-of-drawers are common in <u>h</u> otel rooms 2) People often meet in <u>c</u> inemas or <u>c</u> afes. 3) Life in <u>b</u> ig cities is stressful. They never leave <u>t</u> own. 4) I went to <u>s</u> chool in 1997. 5) Is anybody at <u>h</u> ome?
<i>with notions; school subjects and sports; illnesses</i>	1) This is <u>a</u> prepositional structure. 2) What does <u>a</u> local council normally deal with? ----- 4) <u>a</u> bad cold/headache	1) The Present Perfect tense is used to 2) The Media are always controlled by <u>the</u> government. 3) I'm forgetting all <u>the</u> physics I learnt at school 4) (the) flu	1) <u>V</u> erbs can be divided into several groups.... 2) The Welfare Office deals with <u>p</u> roblems of accommodation.. 3) I like <u>m</u> aths/billiards 4) <u>m</u> alaria; (the)measles

<i>with jobs, posts and titles; headlines and names of books, films etc</i>	-He is <u>an</u> architect. -Being <u>a</u> president?—No! -Her father is <u>a</u> peer and <u>baron</u> . -She wants to be <u>a</u> police officer. -Who trains <u>an</u> army? -There was <u>an</u> army of insects!	-Who is <u>the</u> head of <u>the</u> government in the UK? - <u>The</u> (=our) senior managers wear suits. - <u>The</u> police are looking into this crime. -He joined <u>the</u> army.	- <u>Dr</u> Jade; <u>Earl</u> Grey -Jane May, <u>head</u> of the R&D is in charge of it. - <u>Police</u> officers wear uniforms. - <u>Army</u> numbers are issued to all <u>military</u> personnel. -Joy Parker, <u>hero</u> of the race tells the truth
<i>with time markers</i>	-on <u>a</u> quiet morning -He saved him on <u>a</u> Friday. -See you in <u>a</u> week. -Once in <u>a</u> while I go.... -----	-in <u>the</u> morning ---- -I remember <u>the</u> week before the wedding. ---- -in the past;in the 1950s	-at <u>night</u> ; by <u>day</u> ; from <u>morning</u> till <u>night</u> -Me are meeting on <u>Saturday</u> evening. -I saw him <u>last</u> month. -at <u>present</u> ; in 1950
<i>with possessives</i>	-She's <u>a</u> friend of mine.	-She was <u>the</u> only Bronte to live longer....	-It's <u>Brigitte's</u> notebook.
<i>with nationalities</i>	-Mat married <u>a</u> German.	- <u>The</u> French/ <u>Chinese</u> , <u>Scottish</u>	-(the) <u>Americans</u> are quite friendly.
<i>with adjectives</i>	----	- <u>The</u> most beautiful day - <u>The</u> sooner <u>the</u> better. - <u>The</u> good die first.	<u>Blue</u> is my favourite colour.
<i>with ordinals, pronouns of order, and determiners; and nouns + numbers</i>	1)Yesterday she gave birth to <u>a</u> fifth child. ---- ---- 4) <u>A</u> whole series of battles took place.... 5) Are you <u>an</u> only child in your family? 6) Take <u>a</u> number 3 bus	1) He's made 3 films. <u>The</u> first film was about war, <u>the</u> second was.... On <u>the</u> 27 th of April.... 2) On <u>the</u> one hand, ... on <u>the</u> other hand.... 3) I only know Mary, but I don't know <u>the</u> others. 4) I read <u>the</u> whole book All <u>the</u> toys were on the floor. 5) <u>The</u> only/last/same thing to do is... 6) <u>The</u> first/last page	1) Write your last names, <u>first</u> names aren't necessary. 2) On <u>second</u> thoughts, I'd say that.... 3) She doesn't care what <u>others</u> might think. 4) <u>All</u> advice is useless All <u>cats</u> are very curious. 5) I don't like fish, <u>meat</u> is good for me. 6) Platform <u>3</u> ; page <u>21</u>
<i>with 'of' expressions</i>	1) It's <u>a</u> matter of taste. 2) She is <u>a</u> girl of 12. 3) Buy me <u>a</u> bunch of flowers. 4) It's/this is <u>a</u> great work of art.	1) He is <u>the</u> man of my dreams. 2) <u>The</u> majority of the UK population don't trust the Government. 3) Here, you can read about <u>the</u> use of verbs. 4) This is <u>the</u> work he's painting for years	1) <u>People</u> of <u>all</u> nationalities should have equal rights. ---- ---- ----
<i>with proper names of people</i>	1)She married <u>a</u> Wilson (one of the family) <u>A</u> (certain) Mrs. Jay called in the morning. 2) This is <u>a</u> good Dali.	1) <u>The</u> Johnsons live near here.	1) <u>Mr.</u> Hyde, <u>Helen</u> Raid 2) I love Dali's works

Exercises

1. Complete the gaps with articles and explain their use.

- 1) It'sinteresting matter. What'smatter? It's no.....matter what you really mean.
- 2) She haslong glossy hair. There'shair in my salad!
- 3)giraffe istallest animal in the world. We sawgiraffe in.....Zoo.
.....Giraffes are so funny.
- 4)parents gave meguitar onmy sixteenth birthday. Can you play.....guitar?
- 5)makingglass is very interesting.making of.....glass made Florence really rich.
- 6)constitution isbasic law ofstate. You need to havestrong constitution to bepolice officer.
- 7)sun isstar. It wasmidnight andstars had already made their appearance.
.....stars are of.....different colours: blue, yellow and red.red arecoldest.
- 8) We've boughtnew television. I hardly ever watch.....television.television was invented byJ. L. Baird,Scottish engineer.
- 9) There is noroom for.....discussion! We needmeeting room that can seat 20 people.
Mr. Slay is inRoom 23. I quite likedroom. Look there'splenty room here.
- 10) We stayed at.....Bed & Breakfast. Don't sit on bed! I love to read in.....bed.
- 11) Have you metlove ofyour life yet? Have you heardsong "Love that will never grow old"?love is stronger thandeath. "Here.....life hasdeath for.....neighbour" (A. Ch. Swinburne) ".....Death ofHero" by Richard Aldington is aboutartist who enlists inarmy atbeginning ofWorld War I. ".....Life" used to be.....popular magazine in1950s.
- 12) Havenice time! I decided to make my dreams come true:time was right for me. Sorry, I haven't gottime. There'stime for everything. (The Bible) She rushed upstairs taking two steps attime. That's all fortime being.
- 13) We talked it throughother day. ".....Hell is other people." (J-P Sartre) Letothers worry aboutfuture, I only care forpresent. On.....one hand, we need to save up forrainy day, on.....other hand, we need to enjoy all.....little luxuriesmoney can buy. Have you checked all.....emails today?
- 14) Ok. I'll do it.....first thing tomorrow. Atfirst, I didn't believe him.first of all, we have to makebusiness plan. Is there anything you'd like to change in.....first place?first-borns are likely to have higher IQs;eldest tend to be more ambitious, however,first-born women stand40% chance to be obese and.....first-born men often havepoor eyesight. This isfirst time I've drivencar. Atfirst sight, they looked like usual business partners, but onsecond thoughts, I realised there was something more between them. Try again -.....second time now. The terms*first* and*last* refer tophysical location of.....node alongtrunk cable.

2. Complete the gaps with proper articles.

- 1).....people who're going to travel inAfrica must haveinoculation against.....malaria.
- 2) –Did you know that.....tango first started asdance of.....two men and didn't involve.....embrace? –Really? I love.....tango they dance in.....1992 movie ".....Scent ofWoman".
- 3) She's boughtnew car. It'sMercedes.
- 4) –There'sblood on your shirt. – Where? – There,small spot right near.....sleeve.
- 5) You gavewrong answer.correct answer is *B*.
- 6) –Listen, can you hear.....noise? – Yes,noise is coming from.....second floor.
- 7) I'm not going to consider suchproposal.
- 8) Whatmess! What have you been doing inbedroom?
- 9)insects aremost numerous species inworld.
- 10) –How did she manage to win.....game? – You know,beginner's luck.
- 11) This toothpaste is suitable for any kind ofteeth.
- 12) What.....awful weather!rain hasn't stopped for three days! – It always pours with.....rain at this time ofyear.

- 13) He haspart-time job, he works three evenings.....week. I'd like to work.....flexitime, too.
- 14) Could you agree to.....years of.....pain in.....return for.....lifetime ofriches, assome risk-takers did duringCalifornia Gold Rush?
- 15)cinematic person looks better on.....screen and they take well, too.
- 16) Did you getjob you applied forlast month? – No, I wasn't even shortlisted for interview.
- 17) – How often do you usually go on.....holiday? – Once or twiceyear. I usually travel around country butlast summer I went.....abroad forholiday.
- 18) In Russia, atbeginning of20th century,poetry reflected.....changes taking place insociety.
- 19) – How much.....television do you watch on.....average? – I only watch.....news inmorning and in.....evening. My wife usually reads.....news on.....Internet.
- 20) – Are we meeting onFriday? – I'm afraid not. I'm registered withdentist. – Have you gottoothache? – Yes,bad tooth and.....other problems. By.....way, Anna is inhospital with.....appendicitis. – Oh, no! Can I visit her inhospital?

3. Study the table of the use of articles with **unique objects** and **proper names** (for places & periods).

notes	the	zero
<i>continents; countries; cities; city districts; states, regions and provinces</i>	----- -the Russian Federation; the UK, the Emirates <u>but</u> : the Netherlands; the Sudan; the Lebanon; the Argentine* - <u>but</u> : the Vatican City; the Hague -the City; the West End; the Trocadéro	-South America; Europe -Russia; Great Britain; Spain -Texas; Siberia *Argentina (=the Argentine) -Moscow; Madrid <u>but</u> : Manhattan; Queens; Belgravia; Covent Garden
<i>streets; train stations and lines; airports; bridges</i>	- <u>but</u> : the High Street; the Strand; the Mall <u>but</u> : the Jubilee Line - <u>but</u> : The Bridge of Sighs	-Red Square; Park Lane; Rye Str. -Charing Cross; Euston Station; Heathrow -Tower/Westminster Bridge
<i>water areas</i>	The Pacific Ocean; the Black Sea; the Thames; the Bay of Biscay; the Gulf of Mexico; the Panama Canal; the Angel falls	<u>but</u> : Lake Baikal; Lake Titicaca
<i>mountains; islands; peninsulas</i>	the Andes; the Caribbean the Crimea	(mount) Everest; Cyprus
<i>lands; deserts; forests & parks</i>	the Highlands; the Ruhr (area); the Sahara Desert	Black Forest; Hyde Park
<i>directions</i>	(in) the North-east	<u>but</u> : Eastern Europe
<i>historic sights; museums; cinemas; theatres, hotels</i>	the Pyramids; the Hermitage; the Odeon; the Globe; the Ritz	<u>but</u> : Drury Lane; Windsor Castle; Covent Garden Hotel
<i>restaurants; pubs; banks; shops</i>	the Fat Duck; the Red Lion	Lloyds Bank; Harrods
<i>the Media</i>	the Financial Times; the radio; the television; the Internet	<u>but</u> : Cosmopolitan magazine; Pravda
<i>organisations & companies</i>	the UN; the European Union	IBM; McDonalds; Danon; Fiat
<i>ships; aeroplanes (names)</i>	the Independent; the Rose Mary	
unique objects	the moon; the stars (of _Orion); the equator; the North Pole	<u>but</u> : Mercury; Big Dipper; Betelgeuse
<i>historic periods</i>	the Bronze age; the Middle Ages; the Enlightenment; the 2 nd World War; (the) Cold war	World War II; Perestroika

Exercises

1. Complete the gaps with proper articles, paying special attention to the Proper nouns.
- 1) There arereports that plane has crashed intoWorld Trade Center in New York, settingbuilding onfire.
- 2)Buckingham Palace has announceddeath of Diana,Princess ofWales.Princess, who was thirty-six, died late.....last night incar crash in.....central Paris. (fromBBC News 01.09.1997)
- 3) –Is therechemist near here? – Yes, there ischemist onGreen Street. Go along King’s Road, turn.....right intoGreen Street and you’ll see.....chemist next tosupermarket
- 4) – Where’snearest post office? – It’s quite far from here. Takenumber 12 tram, get off at“Botany Garden”, go straight on pastdepartment store andhospital and takefirst right. Then go ahead untilcrossroads and attraffic lights turn.....left.
- 5) –Have you ever seenNorthern Lights? – No, I haven’t, although I’ve been toAntarctica. –But what you see there isn’tNorthern Lights because it’s atSouth Pole. It’s called..... Aurora Borealis.
- 6) I love.....water areasmost of all. I feelbest inwater.Last summer we spent our holiday byMediterranean. I’d like to swim inocean.....next time.
- 7)Edinburgh International festival is held inlot of venues, such as.....Edinburgh Playhouse,Kings Theatre,Queen’s Hall and many other, and also outside, insquare in..... front ofEdinburgh Castle.
- 8) –Have you ever crossedEnglish Channel? – Yes, several times, onferry andEurostar. And have you heard aboutboy who swam across.....Channel?
- 9) He loves.....mountains.....most of all! He’s been to.....Rockies, and.....Kilimanjaro, and..... Grand Canyon, etc.
- 10)Taylors are my closest friends.Jacksons are our relatives. Did you happen to know..... Captain Jackson? He was married to.....Mails,youngest ofMails’ three daughters.
- 11)Philippines issovereign island country inSoutheast Asia situated inWestern Pacific.
- 12)Seychelles are.....group ofislands inIndian Ocean.official languages are..... Seychellois Creole, based onFrench language, andBritish English.
- 13) –Where isconcert held? – AtFestival Hall, it’s not far from..... Fifth Avenue. They begin their performances quite late inevening. Where would you like to go beforeconcert? I’d like to seeEmpire State Building andNational History Museum. And could we have dinner inArabic restaurant. I loveArabic food.
- 14) - Her son went toUniversity of London. – Really? My son studied atLondon University too.
- 15) – I usually fly withBritish Airways. – Me too. It’svery reliable company. My uncle works there. – Aspilot?
- 16) Excuse me, is that.....Trafalgar Square? And where’sNational Gallery? How can I get to Strand from that place? By.....way, what dolions atpedestal of.....Nelson’s Column symbolise?
- 17)Sherwood Forest is associated withlife andtimes of.....Robin Hood,legendary hero who fought.....Norman barons and defeatedpoor.
- 18)Central Park inNew York is.....most visited urban park inUnited States. It was designed in1858 bytwo soon-to-be-famed national landscapers and architects, Frederick Law Olmstead and.....Calvert Vaux.
- 19)Sydney Harbour Bridge issteel through arch bridge across.....Sydney Harbour that carries.....rail,vehicular and.....pedestrian traffic betweenSydney Central Business district and.....North Shore.dramatic view ofbridge,harbour andnearby Sydney Opera House isiconic image ofAustralia.
- 20) – I’m doingresearch intoGreat Barrier Reef. You know, it was selected asWorld’s Heritage Site inyear 1981. –And I’m doingresearch intolegacy of.....Renaissance.

2. Complete the gaps with proper articles.

- 1) - Are youonly child in.....family? – No, I’myoungest. Why? – I’m doingresearch intoeffects ofbirth order. I never thought thatfirst-borns, middle-borns andlast-borns fall under.....different categories interms of personality.
- 2)only thing I understood was I’d appearedleast desirable guest at.....party, if not..... gatecrasher.
- 3) WhenLabour Party was inpower they introducedlot ofsocial reforms.
- 4) - He was summoned tocourt aswitness. – I know. He was going to testify against..... defendant.court is hearingcase on23rd of.....April. I happen to know one man onjury.
- 5) Two kilometres isn’tlong distance; I ranfive kilometre race at.....weekend. And longest I’ve ever run wasten kilometres race. We were raisingmoney for.....charities.
- 6) Why did you call himexpert? He can’t tellRubens fromRembrandt.
- 7) You’re studying.....economics, aren’t you? Are you hoping to changeeconomy of..... Russian Federation forbetter?
- 8)flight attendant helps.....passengers to get onplane and serves.....food and drink to them duringflight.
- 9) Let’s go out fordrink, shall we?
- 10) I hatehot weather!last summer we had.....heat wave withday highs up to45 degrees!
- 11) - She’s gotdog, it’sGerman Shepherd. –Really? Dochildren likedog?
- 12) My Dad isgreat follower ofroutine: he hasbreakfast at8 o’clock,lunch at.....noon,tea atfive, anddinner athalf past seven inevening.
- 13) Come on,child! You really needbath, you’re covered inmud from.....head totoe.
- 14)Colonel Bradley is married to.....Helen Wilson, who used to beMiss Dodson, youngest daughter of.....Charlie Dodson and thenrich widow afterGary Wilson’s death.
- 15) It gives mereal pleasure to greet you at.....exhibition of.....folk arts in our museum. Let’s look at this tapestry forstart – it represents.....genuine Russian landscape.tapestries onright representscenes oflife of.....different peoples ofcountry fromNorth toSouth and from.....West toEast.
- 16)man is mortal and frightened ofdeath.
- 17) TakeA 4 and turn intoBristol Road.
- 18) - Have you read this article?author calls VivaldiRaphael ofmusic! – And you agree. -Not inleast, oncontrary, Vivaldi israther primitive.
- 19) You’ve reachedBarclays Bank. Please pressstar button and dialnumber of department you need. If you don’t knowextension, please hold on.
- 20) -father isn’t coming todinner, he has to stay late atwork. –Are you sure he toldtruth? – I don’t know. – I know.truth is that he needs a pretext for not seeing Sarah.
- 21)men have to wearsuit andtie injob andfemale employees have to weardress suits,knee-length skirts and they can’t wear.....trousers.dress code in our office is very strict.
- 22) – Do you travel towork incar? – No, bytrain.
- 23)Golden Gate Bridge isremarkable architectural and engineering construction.
- 24) Alice used to read.....*Telegraph* for.....social gossip. When she was athigh school, fortune teller predicted that she would marryDuke of.....Norfolk! So Alice wanted to get accustomed toidea of becominglady.
- 25) - He took her byhand and look her ineye. –Are you going to tell mefairy tale oftrue love andgoing throughlifehand inhand?
- 26)Ancient Greeks believed ingods;idea ofGod was not known to them.
- 27) When didFrench Revolution occur? In1790s?

- 28) We were looking forplace to spendnight. I hate sleeping on.....floors, you know. Anyway, we were prepared to sleep inopen air, watchingstarts looking down on us, then, all ofsudden, Jack spottedsign forinn.
- 29) – Could you pass mesalt, please? – You eat too muchsalt, don't you? By.....way, are you going togrocer's? We've run out of.....sugar. – Ok, I'll buy some. Thank you for..... very nice lunch.
- 30) – Does she really takekids tochurch every Sunday? – She does. This reminds me. What were you doing atmosque.....day before yesterday?
- 31) - James wants to live to behundred, so he takesenormous care of his health. On Monday he goes toyoga class, on Wednesday he attendsvegetarian cookery class, at..... weekend he goes hiking inwoods and cooks onfire. He never sits insun because it is bad forskin and might bereason forcancer. He doesn't believe thatbeing prone to.....various diseases is ingens. – Why onearth are you telling mestory abouthealth freak?
- 32)sunset was amazing! But when we woke up at.....dawn, we sawfar more fascinating thing -sunrise.
- 33) If you're helpingpoor, giving awaymoney, forexample, you should do that withlight heart.
- 34) How many.....US presidents died inoffice in20th century? Which king fell.....victim tosmallpox?
- 35) - He worked at.....Lloyds from1993 to2009. – Where exactly? – AtLloyds bank in..... Lugano,Switzerland.

3. Complete the extracts with proper articles. Look up the Key Answers to check yourself.

A

'But they are not together,star twins, not really together.'

'No, that istrue, they are not tight up againsteach other insky, there istiny gap between them. That isway ofnature. Think oflovers. Iflovers were tight againsteach other alltime they would no longer need to loveeach other. They would beone. There would be nothing for them to want. That is why.....nature hasgaps. If everything were packed tightly together, everything inuniverse, then there would be no you or me.'

Abridged from "The Childhood of Jesus" by J.M. Coetzee

B

.....generation ago there wereantelope and hares in suchnumbers thatwatchmen withdogs had to patrolfields bynight to protectyoung wheat. But underpressure ofsettlement,antelope have retreated.....eastward to.....lower reaches ofriver.

Sometimes, ongood morning, I am enabled to live again all.....strength and.....swiftness of my manhood. I wade through.....icy water. My eyes are sharp, my hearing is keen, I sniff.....air like.....hound, I feel.....pure exhilaration. I leave my horse hobbled where.....line ofmarsh grass ends on.....bleak south-west shore and begin to push my way through.....reeds.

Abridged from "Waiting for the Barbarians" by J.M. Coetzee

C

.....official residence ofHis Excellency.....Prince Bawad bin-Rumallah,ambassador of..... Royal Kingdom toUnited States ofAmerica, perches expensively on\$ 18 million of real estate overlookingfrothy rapid ofPotomac River.....few milesupstream from Washington, DC.

..... few minutes pastmidnight oncrisp fall night of.....September 28,gates on whichroyal emblem was mounted swung open and let outcar driven by Nazrah-al-Bawad,, wife of.....Prince Bawad.

Abridged from "Florence of Arabia" by Chr. Buckley

D

Tonight was meant to be.....special occasion,celebration, and she hauled herself from, bathtub, brushed her teeth until her gums were sore, sprayed herself withinvigorating floral woodiness, then searched her wardrobe foroutfit that didn't make her look likeMiss MorleyEnglish teacher onnight out with her famous friend.

She looked at her watch, withtime to kill, flicked ontelevision. Onnationwide quest to findBritain's Most Talented Pet, Suki Meadows was standing onScarborough sea-front, introducingviewers to.....dog who could playdrums,dog waving his limbs in direction oftiny snare,drumsticks gaffer-taped to his paws.

Abridged from "One Day" by D. Nicholls

E

She knew Greg must have been infurious temper. She looked atRobert's serious face as he watchedcoffeepot. 'Why did you take suchtrouble to tell them we weren't engaged?' she asked.

'Because we aren't, and I thought making it clear would takelittle ofmelodrama out of situation.man is missing – presumably.police don't know me,townspeople don't know me. How do they know I didn't knock him in onpurpose, to get rid ofrival?

'Did you feel they suspected you oflying?'

'I don't think so. Do you?'

'I don't know. But I didn't think it was necessary to tell them alldetails. Yes,' she said positively and she felt she hadpoint. 'They are interested whether Greg was really sitting onbank and whether he could walk uproad.'

'I said that about not being engaged, Jenny, and it makessense to me.'

His tone was gentle, but Jenny sensedgreat hardness under it. They weren't engaged, that wasfact. Maybe they never would be.

Abridged from "The Cry of the Owl" by P. Highsmith