# A, An, The or No article:

Why do we need them?

## Text with articles removed

All required articles in this text have been removed. When you read it, you may still get the gist of the content (perhaps from pre-knowledge), but if articles are missing from your writing, your reader may be confused.

#### A description of a process: combustion

When substance combines with oxygen it is always oxidised, and heat energy is given off. If combustion is so rapid that light energy as well as heat energy is produced, process is known as *combustion*. Heat of reaction gives off gases vaporised from combustible substance, and these gases burn in form of flame. Flame is usually coloured by energised ions which emit light energy.

Text source: Williams, R. (1978). Spotlight: Technical English for Asia. Hong Kong: Longman Group (Far East) Ltd.

#### A description of a process: combustion

When a <u>substance</u> combines with x <u>oxygen</u> it is always oxidised, and x <u>heat</u> <u>energy</u> is given off. If <u>the combustion</u> is so rapid that x <u>light energy</u> as well as x <u>heat energy</u> is produced, <u>the process</u> is known as x <u>combustion</u>. The <u>heat</u> of <u>the reaction</u> gives off x gases vaporised from <u>the combustible</u> substance, and these <u>gases</u> burn in <u>the form of a flame</u>. The flame is usually coloured by x energised ions which emit x light energy.

All nouns in English have to be identified in some way. The correct insertion of the <u>nine</u> articles in front of the nouns (underlined) that require them increases the overall clarity and coherence of the description. See an

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