Exercises

1. Biophysics is considered ____ life science because it is ____ study of ____ biological processes in relation to ____ theories used in physics.

2. _____ femtosecond is ____ SI unit of time that is one millionth of one billionth of ____ second.

3. Hydrocarbons are ____ organic compounds composed of ____ hydrogen and ____ carbon; hydrocarbons found on ____ planet Earth typically occur in crude oil.

Answer key on page 2.
1. Biophysics is considered ___a___ life science because it is ___the___ study of ___zero article___ biological processes in relation to ___the___ theories used in physics.

Reasons:
We use “a” before life science as it is one of many in the field and thus non-specific.
We use “the” before “study” because we are describing a type of study that is specific to this particular field.
We use “the” before theories as these theories are specific to physics.

2. ___A___ femtosecond is ___the___ SI unit of time that is one millionth of one billionth of ___a___ second.

Reasons:
We use “a” before “femtosecond” as it is a singular unit of measurement but there can be many, so it’s non-specific.
We use “the” before SI Unit as we are describing a unit of time that is specific to the SI scale.
We use “a” before “second” as it is talking about a singular unit that is not specific.

3. Hydrocarbons are ___zero article___ organic compounds composed of ___zero article___ hydrogen and ___zero article___ carbon; hydrocarbons found on ___the___ planet Earth typically occur in crude oil.

Reasons:
We do not use an article before organic compounds as this term is plural.
We do not use an article before hydrogen and carbon because they are not countable nouns.
We use “the” before planet Earth as we are referring to the specific planet.