EXERCISE 1  (Focus 1, page 84)

Fill in each blank with *a*, *the*, or *Ø*.

The caravan entered between two ranks of guards. (1) **The** traders continued on to (2) **the** market, while (3) **a** guide took me to (4) **the** inn of the foreigners. (5) **The** guide made (6) **the** camel kneel down in front of (7) **a** large pavilion-like (8) **Ø** barracks. When he carried my traveling bags inside, I realized that it was (9) **the** inn. It was divided into two wings separated by (10) **Ø** an extended reception hall; each wing contained (11) **Ø** adjoining rooms whose sides were constructed of (12) **Ø** hair cloth. (13) **The** room chosen for me was simple, even primitive: its floor was sandy, and it possessed (14) **a** bed (which consisted of (15) **a** wooden board laid on (16) **the** ground), (17) **a** chest for clothes, and (18) **Ø** cushions in (19) **the** middle. No sooner had I finished checking through my bags than I hurried to bed with (20) **the** eagerness of someone deprived of (21) **Ø** normal sleep for (22) **a** full month. I slept deeply until woken by (23) **the** day’s heat. As though unwell, I rose from my bed and passed through into (24) **the** reception hall, which was crammed with (25) **Ø** guests, all of whom were seated in front of their rooms having (26) **Ø** breakfast. (27) **A** short man, slightly stout, wearing only (28) **a** loin cloth, came up to me, “I am Fam, (29) **the** owner of (30) **the** inn,” he said smiling. “Did you have (31) **a** good night?”