

English Articles

Articles tell how many or which one



use *a / an* . . .1

1) To mean *one*.

Indefinite use

A thousand years I have two cars and a bike

I have a pen. ~~Not I have a pens~~

The team earned over a million pounds.

2) With **singular countable nouns** to talk about a **whole species or type of a thing**.

A dog needs regular exercise

3) For actions where the **noun carries more meaning than the verb**.

Did you have a shave this morning?

use a / an . . .2

4) After the verbs be, seem, become, (and others)

to give more information (job, character, behavior) about a person or thing.

He's a liar and a cheat.

Her husband seemed a very pleasant man.

Obama became an American citizen.

5) In exclamations:

what a lovely day !. What a pity!.

6) With a unit of measurement - (weigh/ quantity/time)

The apples are \$ 1 a kilo.

We pray five times a day.

Four times a day, a week, a year.

A/an' or zero with reference to illnesses: 'a cold'

use a/an with these illnesses:

a cold, a headache, a sore throat.

no article at all with these plurals:

measles, mumps, shingles.

no article with these:

(high) blood pressure, flu, gout, hepatitis.

Initial Sounds

1- Some words written with *h* are pronounced with an initial vowel sound (and therefore take *an* rather than *a*).

an hour - an honest man.

2- Some words that start with *u* or *eu* are pronounced with an initial /j/ *ي* sound (as if written *yu*) and therefore take *a* rather than *an*.

a university a unit a uniform

a Euro a European man

But an umbrella an uncle an unattractive women

3- Names of some alphabet letters { *f, h, l, m, n, r, s*, and *x*) are pronounced with an initial vowel sound and go with *an*.

Friday starts with an f'

She has an MP3 player. He went to hospital for an x-ray.

use the with----1

1) **Known things:**

“things that are local or very familiar to most people in the context”.

Suddenly all the lights went out.

Thank you for the banana

The president of France

Definite use

2) **Unique things:** i.e. there is only one.

The back of my neck The sun the moon the thunder

the Internet the earth

use the with----2

4) **Some geographical terms:** with some mountain ranges, island groups, areas of water (seas/oceans), regions and places with republics, Emirates, kingdoms, states

the Alps

the Middle East

the Channel Islands

the United Kingdom

the Pacific Ocean

the Solomon Islands

5) **Ordinal numbers, dates and periods of time.**

the seventh

the first of January

people who were born in the nineties

6) **Nouns made from adjectives to describe a whole class or type.**

the poor

the unemployed

the blind

الفقراء

use the with----3

7) **Use “the” before the places we visit in a town:**

the cinema , the theater, the disco, the opera,

the post office, the bank.

We don't very often go the cinema

8) **the is used with musical instruments when we talk about playing them or listening to them:**

Can you play the guitar?

I love listening to the violin?

(a, an, the is NOT used before):-1

1) Proper nouns (the names of people), places: countries, continents, products (Trademark), languages, publications, events, study subjects, names of villages, towns, streets, cities.

⊗ *Omar* ⊗ *Yemen* ⊗ *Africa* ⊗ *Toshiba* ⊗ *French*
⊗ *New York* ⊗ *Christmas* ⊗ *Arabic* ⊗ *Anatomy* ⊗ *Mukalla*
⊗ *Mukalla Street* ⊗ *Suzuki* ⊗ *Hamlet*

2) Uncountable nouns & plural countable nouns

I like ⊗ chocolate. Chinua loves ⊗ fast cars.

3) Some places we go to for a purpose: school, hospital, church, home, bed, college, work, mosque, prison, town.

He went to ⊗ bed early (ie to sleep).

She has been in ⊗ hospital for three weeks.

Compare – *there is not a hospital in my hometown.*

(a, an, the is NOT used before):-2

4) Names of school and college subjects, sports, meals, and ways of travelling.

⊗ *physics* ⊗ *tonsillitis* ⊗ *volleyball* ⊗ *bus*
⊗ *breakfast*

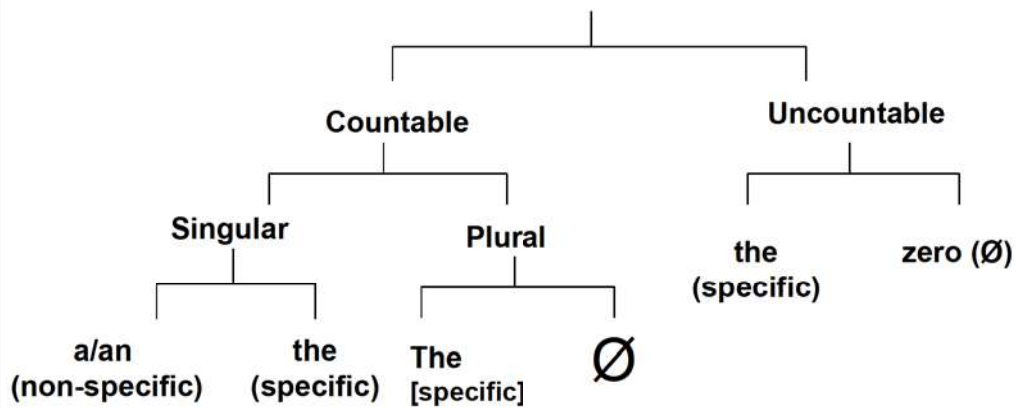
5) Sometimes with times and periods of time.

in ⊗ summer

at ⊗ midnight

Summary of Articles

common noun or noun phrase



Exercise 1

Use a, an, the and ∅ (zero article)

Every day I walk to ----- town center. There are always ----- lots of ----- people there. I usually buy ----- ice cream, ----- packet of ----- sweets and ----- newspaper. Then I go to ----- beach and sit on ----- bench reading ----- newspaper. Sometimes I look up at ----- clouds in ----- sky and watch the seagulls flying over ----- sea

Exercise 2: True or False

1. -----^f Our first lesson after lunch is ~~the~~ Biology.
2. ----- I first played a baseball in the USA last summer.
3. ----- Rome is my favorite city in Italy.
4. ----- When I leave college I want to be the doctor.
5. ----- What time does the bank open on the Friday?
6. ----- What a beautiful photo!
7. ----- A Sameer Speaks French very well.
8. ----- Yemen is the best country in an Asia
9. ----- Africa is the second largest continent.
10. ----- Can you play a piano?

Exercise 3: Complete these sentences with a, an, the or no article (-).

She plays the piano beautifully.

1. We usually meet once-----week.
2. I enjoy studying languages but I find ----- Latin quite difficult.
3. I always listen to ----- radio
4. I'm going to bed, have got ----- headache.
5. Did you study -----physics at school?
6. I love listening to ----- saxophone?
7. Can you speak-----Russian?
8. I really enjoy playing -----football ----- on Mondays.
9. She sent me -----letter and ----- card. ----- letter did not arrive.
10. I had -----cup of tea and -----ice cream. -----tea was terrible.

Summary table - Exercise 4

No .	a	an	the	Zero Article (⊙)
0	A book	An umbrella	The world	Tareem /Mukalla
1	a room	an orange	the thunder	volleyball
2				
3				
4				
5				