

To the student

Grammar Practice for Intermediate Students gives short, clear explanations of all the main areas of English grammar, and provides practice exercises for you to do. There are two ways in which this book can be used;

- (i) in class with help from your teacher;
- (ii) at home by yourself.

If you are using the book by yourself, use the Index and the Contents list to find the areas that you want to study, read the grammatical explanation, and then do the exercise. To check your answers you will need to use the edition of *Grammar Practice for Intermediate Students with Answer key*.

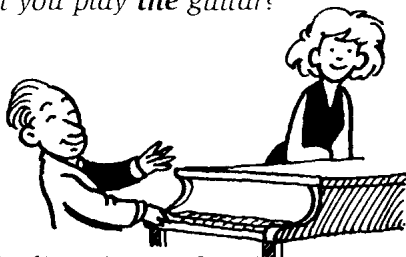
We hope that *Grammar Practice for Intermediate Students* helps you to improve your English.

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Nouns and adjectives

1 The articles *a* and *the*

- *a* is used:
 - a) with countable nouns to indicate **one**:
*I've got **a** cat.*
 - b) to indicate cost, speed, or frequency:
*fifty pence **a** kilo*
*four times **a** day*
*two hundred kilometres **an** hour*
 - c) for certain numbers:
***a** hundred; **a** thousand; **a** couple; **a** dozen*
- *the* is used:
 - a) when a word is used a second time
 - b) when talking about a known object:
*I've just washed **the** car.* (= our car, or this car)
*Where's **the** dog?* (= our dog, or the dog that is usually here)
*We've made **the** beds.* (= our beds, or the beds here)
 - c) in a general sense, with musical instruments:
*Can you play **the** guitar?*



*I like listening to **the** piano.*

Note: *I've just bought **a** guitar and **a** piano.*

- d) when the object is unique:
***the** moon.*
- Usually, no article is used:
 - a) with abstract nouns (*life, beauty, love, etc.*), languages, and academic subjects (*history, Latin, etc.*):
Life isn't always easy.
Latin is a difficult language to learn.
 - b) with materials (*wine, coal, sugar, etc.*) when they are considered in a general sense:
Glass is a difficult material to cut.
Gold is very expensive at the moment.
Note: There is a difference between:
They were looking for gold. (= any gold)
*They found **the** gold.* (= the gold they were looking for)
 - c) before countries and towns:
They live in Manchester.
 - d) before *school, home, work, church, bed, and hospital* in certain expressions:
We went to church.
She's at home.

Practice

Write **a**, **the**, or no article to complete these sentences.

- 1 She's a good musician: she plays ~~the~~ piano beautifully.
- 2 I don't see him often, only once or twice ~~a~~ month.
- 3 Mary's not at ~~the~~ office. I think she's gone ~~the~~ home.
- 4 Do you want to see Sarah? She's in garden.
- 5 I'm studying French and Italian.
- 6 I like Jane, she has a lot of warmth.
- 7 Shall we sit outside? sun is really warm.
- 8 Where's dog? I want to go out for walk.
- 9 I don't use sugar when I'm cooking.
- 10 Do your parents still live in Scotland?
- 11 Would you mind waiting for couple of minutes?
- 12 I think piano is one of the easiest instruments to play.
- 13 It's fast car. Its top speed is 150 miles hour.
- 14 I saw her when she was going to work.
- 15 There's someone at front door.
- 16 Do you like wine? No, I don't drink alcohol.
- 17 I'll have dozen eggs and loaf, please.
- 18 Coal is sixty dollars ton at the moment.
- 19 Have you done washing-up?
- 20 I think it's made of glass.
- 21 I like tea with milk in it.
- 22 I stayed at home last night and listened to radio.
- 23 Would you like cup of coffee?
- 24 They gave me diamond necklace.
- 25 When he was nineteen, he joined army.

2 Words using **a**, **the**, or no article

- Some words are used with **a**, **the**, or no article, depending on the meaning of the word, and whether it is thought of as definite (**the**), indefinite (**a**), or uncountable:

*I put **the** glass on the table.* (definite – a particular glass)

*I picked up **a** glass.* (indefinite – one of a number of glasses)

It's made of glass. (uncountable – glass as material)

Practice

Write **a**, **the**, or no article to complete these sentences.

tin

- 1 Could I have ten eggs and ...~~a~~... tin of peas?
- 2 Put some money in ~~the~~ tin by the door when you leave, please.
- 3 The cigarette lighter's made of tin.

wood

- 4 We knew that wood was a very expensive material at the time.
- 5 There's wood at the end of the road.
- 6 There are some rabbits living at the edge of wood.

paper

- 7 The boy who delivers paper is late today.
- 8 It was very strange, a shirt made of paper.
- 9 I generally read paper of some sort on the train.

chocolate

- 10 I won't take chocolate, thanks, although they look very nice.
- 11 Most doctors say chocolate is bad for you.
- 12 chocolates which I ate last night tasted very strange.

dress

- 13 She has a good sense of dress.
- 14 dress I liked was a bit too big for me.
- 15 I saw beautiful dress here yesterday.

experience

- 16 I'm afraid I didn't enjoy experience at all.
- 17 For this job you need experience with computers.
- 18 My first trip abroad was wonderful experience.

noise

- 19 I couldn't hear her because of noise of the train.
- 20 She heard strange noise behind the curtain.
- 21 What kind of noise are you talking about?

conversation

- 22 It was very embarrassing conversation.
- 23 I was trying to listen to conversation at the table next to me.
- 24 I always find conversation difficult in a foreign language.

3 *a, the, or no article*

Practice

Circle the correct answer.

I could tell by (*a/the/-*) town hall clock that I was late, so I decided to catch (*a/-*) bus. It was (*a/the/-*) beautiful day; (*a/the/-*) sun was shining and there was (*the/-*) very little wind. I turned (*the/-*) corner, and walked down (*a/the/-*) main street.

(*A/the/-*) couple of minutes later, I heard (*a/the/-*) noise, and (*a/the/-*) man wearing (*a/the/-*) grey leather jacket ran past me. At first, I thought he was trying to catch (*the/-*) bus which was waiting at (*the/-*) bus stop, but then (*a/the/-*) policeman appeared, running at (*a/-*) some speed. He was obviously chasing (*a/the/-*) man in (*a/the/-*) leather jacket, and he was joined by another policeman, who was talking rapidly into (*a/the/-*) hand-held radio.

All three disappeared into (*a/-*) crowd of people, my bus arrived, and I got on. As (*a/the/-*) bus drove down (*the/-*) road, I saw (*a/the/-*) man again, walking casually through (*a/the/-*) crowd with his (*the/-*) coat over his shoulder. I could also see (*a/the/-*) second policeman, still talking into his radio. He was describing (*a/-*) man who no longer existed, (*a/-*) man wearing a jacket and running furiously: while (*a/the/-*) real criminal (if he was (*a/-*) criminal) walked slowly and casually into the station.



4 Possessives with 's, s' and of

- To indicate possession for people or animals:
 - a) add 's to singular nouns, and to plural nouns not ending in s:
 - Monica's dress*
 - the dog's nose*
 - the children's school*
 - b) add ' to plural nouns ending in s:
 - dolphins' brains*
 - the sailors' hats*