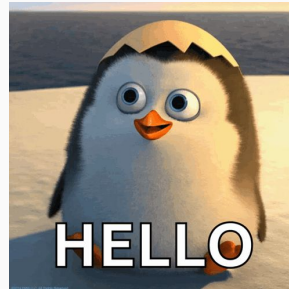


Articles, Prepositions, Modal Verbs, Subject-Verb Agreement

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Article

What is an article?

An article is a word that comes before a noun to show whether the noun is specific or general. It helps us understand which person, place, or thing we are talking about.

Ex. 1. Give me a book 2. Give me the book

a= refers to -----

the= refers to -----

Two types of articles:

Definite and Indefinite



Consonant and vowels

“a” is used before words that begin with a consonant sound

(B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R, S, T, V, W, X, Y, Z)

Ex.1: A rat but Ex.2: An honest (what is the error here?)

“an” is used before words that begin with a vowel sound

(A, E, I, O, U)

Ex.1: an apple but Ex.2: a university An honest (what is the error here?)



Countable and uncountable noun

Indefinite Articles: “a” / “an”: Used only with singular countable nouns.

Ex.1: “a” before consonant sounds: a book, a car, a banana

Ex.2: “an” before vowel sounds: an apple, an idea, an hour

But not used with uncountable nouns! **We don't say “a water”** But we can say: a bottle of water

Definite Article: “the”: Used with both countable and uncountable nouns when referring to something specific. Countable (Singular): the chair; Countable (Plural): the books; Uncountable: the milk

Ex.1: The sugar on the table is mine. (uncountable)

Ex.2: The books you gave me are amazing. (countable plural)

Ex.3: The idea was brilliant. (countable singular)

Preposition

What is a preposition?

A preposition is a word that shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun and another word in a sentence.

It tells us where, when, or how something happens.

A preposition positions things in space, time, direction, or relationship.

Place/position/time

Position: Tell us where something is.

For example: on, in, under, over, behind, next to, between etc.

Ex.1: The cat is under the sofa.

Time: Tell us when something happens.

For example: at, on, in, by, before, after, during, until etc.

Ex.1 We will meet at 5 p.m.



Direction/movement/Cause, Reason, or Purpose

Prepositions of Direction / Movement

Show **movement** from one place to another.

For example: to, into, onto, towards, out of etc.

Ex.1: He walked **into** the room.

Prepositions of Cause, Reason, or Purpose

Explain **why** something happened.

because of, due to, for, from

Ex.1: The match was cancelled **due to** rain.



Modal Verbs

What are modal verbs?

Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs that express **necessity, possibility, ability, permission, obligation, or advice**. They are always used with the base form of the main verb (without "to").

Modal verbs:

Can, Could, May, Might, Shall, Should, Will, Would, Must, Ought to

1. Ability:

I can attend today's CS class

1. Possibility

I may attend today's CS class

1. Permission

Can I attend today's CS class?

1. Obligation

You should attend today's CS class (oop! you don't have a choice)



5. Promise/prediction

I will attend today's CS class

6. Hypothetical Situations / Politeness

I would go to today's CS class if I had time.

7. Strong advice or moral obligation

You should go to today's CS class



8. Prohibition

You must not attend today's CS class (nope! I didn't mean this!)

9. Advice

You ought to attend today's CS class(Yes! I mean this!)



Subject-verb agreement

Singular and Plural Subjects and Verbs

Raju likes **s** to talk

My parents **are** visiting me today

Rafiq and Akintha **are** on their way to the railway station.

Rice and curry **is/are** my favorite meal



Singular Indefinite Pronouns

Singular indefinite pronouns such as anybody, anyone, no one, somebody, someone, everybody, everyone, nothing and nobody will take singular verb

Is, was, has, s etc.

Can you give me a few examples?

Neither the teacher nor the students have arrived.

Either the students or the teacher has to explain.

If plural subjects are joined by “or,” “nor,” or “but,” the verb must only agree with the subject that is closest to it.

Collective noun

If the collective noun such as **family, group, committee, or class**, is the subject, the verb will end in “s.”

Ex: **My family with all my crazy cousins always walks to the store.**

What about economics, mumps, measles, or news?



Ex.: The mother duck (with all of her little ducklings) walk/walks to the store.

The mother duck (including all her ducklings) walk/walks to the store.

The subject of a verb is never in a prepositional or verbal phrase. Therefore, you must isolate the phrase and find the proper subject.

(Prepositional= Preposition + object (noun or pronoun) + any modifiers)



Quantifiers

Quantifiers such as few, some, all, lot of, most, more, any, no, less, enough etc. will take singular verb

Most children start school at the age of five.

Few snakes are dangerous.

But what about these ones?

Few of the snakes in this zoo is/are dangerous.

Most of the boys at my school play/plays football.



Gerund, number, Distances, Time, Amounts, Infinitives

Running with ducks is my favorite sport.

A number of students are absent.

The number of students is increasing.

Ten pounds of chocolate is too much to eat at once.

Thirteen feet of kite string tangles very easily.

To swim daily helps with fitness.



But what about this one?

The biggest problem we face is/are all the squirrels that have rabies around here.