### Grammar guide

# Articles

Part 1

Aspect	Explanation	Examples	
	• When we make reference to what	I need to buy a TV-set. The TV-set I want costs a lot.	
	we have already mentioned we use the definite article;	want costs a lot.	
	<ul> <li>A noun can be made definite if there</li> </ul>	- There is a bridge over there Yes,	
CONTEXT	are the details that follow it (post-	there is. This is the Bridge of Saint	
USAGE	modification);	Peter and Paul.	
	• Some things are definite from the	Jason is at the restaurant. (=The one	
	very beginning if they are known to	we all usually go to)	
	the people talking about them.		
	• If we talk about an example of a	A Geiger counter is used to measure	
	thing or instrument, we use a/an;	the intensity of ionizing radiation.  Frank is a French. Jack is an engineer.	
	• To talk about a class of things or people we also need to use a/an;	This is an electric drill.	
	When we use a/an with names	Alan has acquired a Picasso (= a work	
GROUPS	(surnames) we refer to objects	of art). This is a Rodin sculpture.	
AND	produced by this person;		
CLASES	We use zero article with plurals and	Teachers often work under stress.	
	uncountable nouns when refer to a	Women are better than men at sewing.	
	class of things or people in general;	Water is becoming a rare resource.	
	• If we use a singular noun to describe	The bicycle is getting more and more	
	a class of things, in this case we use the definite article.	popular. The giant panda is in utter danger of extinction.	
	If we need to deal with abstract	Health is one of the most important	
IDEAS	ideas, we use zero article;	corner stones in any human life.	
IDE/IS	• If abstract idea is enhanced by	The health of billions may be in danger	
	details coming after it, we use the.	because of Fukushima accident.	
	By the default we use zero articles	David Beckham lives in London. Is it	
	with names. However, we can	the David Beckham? (= the very same,	
	specify the person and use the;	in the flesh, etc.)	
	• We can use a/an with names when we are not certain about the name of	Is there a Mark Stephens stay here? (= I'm not sure it's correct, but I believe he	
	the person we are asking about;	must be exactly Mark Stephens)	
PEOPLE	We use the definite article with the	The Democrats have really big chances	
	names of groups when they are	to win the next elections.	
	clearly plural. But if a proper name	Manchester United supporters were in	
	comes before a noun, zero article is	deep grief after the match with FC	
	to be used;	Barcelona. The rich every contury gets richer and	
	• A lot of groups of people can be described by using singular	The rich every century gets richer and richer, while the poor – poorer.	
	adjective and the-article.	rener, while the poor poorer.	
UNIQUE	• The article is used when we talk	When the sun set, the moon appeared	
OBJECTS	about things that are considered to	in the sky to shine the way to the	
0202010	be unique or the only.	courageous travelers.	
	• Indefinite article a/an is used when	I've got a sore throat / a headache / a	
ILLNESS	we talk about pain (ache);	toothache / a cold / a backache.	
	• When we talk using the name of any	You can't visit her at present and in	
	disease, we are to use zero article.	the nearest future, she has got flu.	

#### **Grammar guide**

### **Articles**

Part 2

Aspect	Explanation	Examples
	We use zero articles when we refer	In September we went to bus tours
	to days (and its parts), months;	round the city on Fridays.
CALENDAR	We can use the to talk about some	On the Friday I made her a proposal
	particular day or month;	(=on that very day).
	• When you use an indefinite article,	It was a Monday morning and life in
	that means you refer to some day	our city was as busy as it used to be.
	or month as a typical example of.	
	• We use the definite article with	The Swiss are famous for their
	nationality adjectives that have at	chocolate, knives, banks; the French
	the end of their word -ese, -sh, -ss	are – for their wine and perfume; the
	to refer to all the nation;	Japanese – for their sushi.
	• The same way the article is used	The Russians for a long time were
NATIONALITY	when we deal with plural	competing with the Americans
	nationality nouns;	during so called "cold war".
	• We use a/an with a singular	Janis is a Dane, he is from Denmark.
	nationality word in order to refer	Jorje is a Spaniard, he was born in
	to the person as a representative of	Barcelona. Sean wears a kilt, because
	the particular nation.	he is a Scot.
	• The definite article is used	I've always dreamt to visit the
	whenever you deal with the names	Atlantic Ocean. Though the Black
	of: oceans, seas, rivers,	Sea impressed me too. As well I
	geographical areas;	remember a fine river – the Dnieper.
	• The article is used with the four	The sun rises in the east. This
	corners of the earth. However, we	highway is stretching from north to
	need zero article when we talk	south of the former Polish kingdom.
	about general directions;	
GEOGRAPHY	• When we deal with lakes,	Lake Baikal is one of the most
	countries or continents we need to	beautiful lakes in Russia. Brazil is in
	use zero article;	South America.
	We use the definite article with the	The Gobi desert is the largest in Asia
	names of deserts;	and forth largest in the world.
	• Also the- article is to be used with	When you read about Russia, you
	plural or collective nouns.	can't miss the Urals. George lives in
		the UK/ the USA / the Netherlands.
	• Traditionally names of islands	Mark has visited Cuba for the third
	come with zero article, unless they	time since his childhood. The Isle of
	have a post-modification with of.	Man didn't impress me as much as
	In this case we use the- article.	my brother.

Names of mountains may vary. A long tradition was to use zero article with the names of mountains. Dmitry climbed **Everest** and **Mont Blanc** when he was 23. However there are plenty of those that go with the definite article. **The Zugspitze** is the highest mountain in Germany. **The Matterhorn** is the mountain in Swiss Alps.

Some nouns can be countable and uncountable. In this case the usage of article may define the meaning and as well change it.

a/an	a coffee	a cup of coffee
the	the coffee	grains or beans
zero	coffee	In general

Would you like me to prepare you a coffee?

Jason, please, put the coffee into the sideboard

Do you prefer to drink tea or coffee in the morning?

### Practice of usage

## Articles

Input the necessary article

Input the most appropriate article into the gaps	Put down articles only
1 aloe is useful plant.	1
2. This is school for deaf.	2
3 Neva is one of most famous rivers in Russia.	3
4 epidemic of cholera broke out here few months ago.	4
5. I met my cousin at library half hour ago.	5
6. – How often do you go to church? – Twice month.	6
7. Is new boy in our school from Philippines?	7
8 mammoth was kind of animals that lived long ago.	8
9 Bahamas are located in Caribbean Sea.	9
10 Mount Everest is world's highest mountain.	10
11. It is impossible to count all stars in sky.	11
12 bones of dinosaurs have been found in Gobi Desert.	12
13. I had pizza and orange for lunch pizza wasn't very	13
good but orange was sweet.	
14. She left house without umbrella.	14
15. There isn't drop of water on moon.	15
16. They had a picnic on Paradise Island and then caught	16
ferry to Misty Island.	
17. My nephew works for BBC so he took us to visit radio station	17
in London at weekend.	
18. The ferry across River Jordan is not far from Quiet Hill.	18
19 Philippine Islands are in Pacific Ocean about 1450 miles	19
away from Singapore.	
20 holidays will start on sixth of October. I shall leave	20
for Bangkok on first day of holidays. I have	
uncle there who works in flour mill. He is manager of	
mill.	
21. My brother caught cold when he played volleyball in	21
rain. He did not dry himself properly after game.	
22. We shall have dinner in moment even if girls are not	22
home by then food is nearly ready.	
23. My brother said that results of examination will appear in	23
newspaper in few days' time.	