**A/AN, PLURALS**

*We use* ***a/an*** *with singular nouns:*

*This is a table.*

*It’s an orange.*

*We use* ***a*** *with nouns beginning with a consonant, and we use* ***an*** *with nouns beginning with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u):*

*Give me an apple.*

*There is an elephant in the zoo.*

*It’s an amazing experience.*

*We also use* ***an*** *with nouns* ***beginning with h*** *if the h is not pronounced.*

*But we use* ***a*** *if the* ***h*** *is pronounced.*

*Give me an hour. (The* ***h*** *is not pronounced in* ***~~h~~our****.)*

*I want to buy a hat. (The* ***h*** *is pronounced in* ***hat****.)*

*We use* ***a*** *and* ***NOT an*** *with nouns* ***beginning with u*** *when it is pronounced /ju:/, like university:*

*Is there a university in this city?*

*I wear a uniform.*

***another*** *(=== an + other) is one word:*

*Can I have* ***another*** *cup of coffee?*

*We use* ***a/an*** *... when we say what a* ***thing or a person is (descriptions)****:*

*The sun is a star.*

*A mouse is an animal.*

*We use* ***a/an*** *... for* ***jobs*** *etc.:*

*I'm a dentist*

*Would you like to be a teacher?*

**Plurals in English**

**~~a tables~~**

*We* ***do NOT*** *use* ***a/an*** *with* ***plural*** *nouns:*

*These are tables. (NOT ~~a tables~~)*

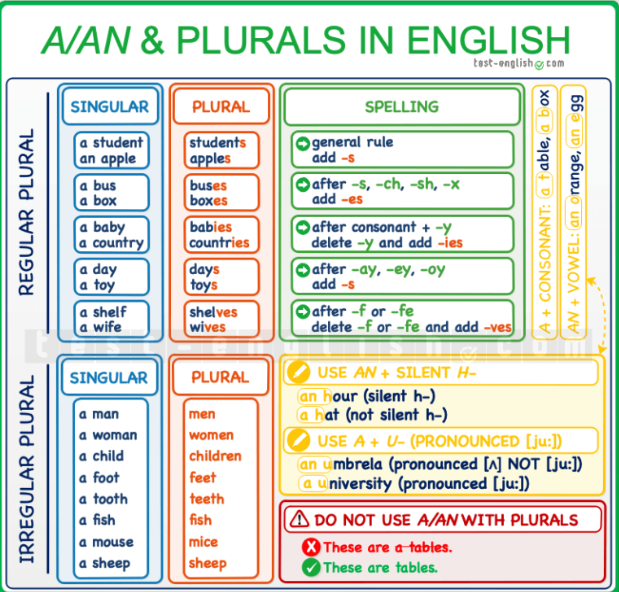
*Regular plurals*

*We add* ***-s*** *to make plural nouns in English.*

*Sometimes we need to add* ***-es, -ies or –ves****.*

*Irregular plurals*

*Some words have irregular plurals and do NOT add -s to make their plural form.*



**A, SOME, ANY – COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS**

***A noun can be countable or uncountable***

**COUNTABLE NOUNS**

***Countable nouns*** *are nouns that we can* ***count****: car, house, book, etc. We can say one car, two cars, three cars, etc.*

*Singular and plural*

*Countable nouns have* ***singular and plural*** *forms: a car/cars, a house/houses, a book/books, etc.*

*a/an + singular countable noun*

*We* ***CANNOT*** *use a singular countable noun* ***without*** *a determiner like* ***a/an*** *or* ***the****.*

*I have a car. (NOT ~~I have car~~.)*

*When I was a child. (NOT When ~~I was child~~.)*

**UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS**

***Uncountable*** *nouns are nouns that we* ***cannot******count****: money, milk, rain, etc. We cannot say ~~one money, two moneys,~~ etc.*

*Only singular*

***Uncountable*** *nouns do not have a plural form, they* ***only*** *have a* ***singular******form****: money/~~moneys~~, milk/~~milks~~, rain/~~rains~~, etc.*

*Not ~~a/an~~*

*We cannot use* ***a/an*** *+ uncountable noun.* ***A/an*** *means ‘one’, and we cannot count uncountable nouns.*

*I need money. (NOT ~~a money~~.)*

*We need to buy sugar. (NOT ~~a sugar~~.)*

***Types of words*** *that are uncountable*

*Some types of words that are typically uncountable are:*

***Food, drinks and liquids****: cheese, bread, pasta, coffee, milk, petrol, fuel, etc.*

***Materials****: iron, wood, metal, paper, plastic, etc.*

***Abstract******ideas and feelings****: information, advice, strength, time, love, excitement, etc.*

***Illnesses****: diabetes, alzheimer, cancer, etc.*

***Languages****: English, French, Spanish, etc.*

**COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE**

***Some nouns can be countable and uncountable*** *because they can refer to a unit or to ‘mass’ or ‘material’. Compare:*

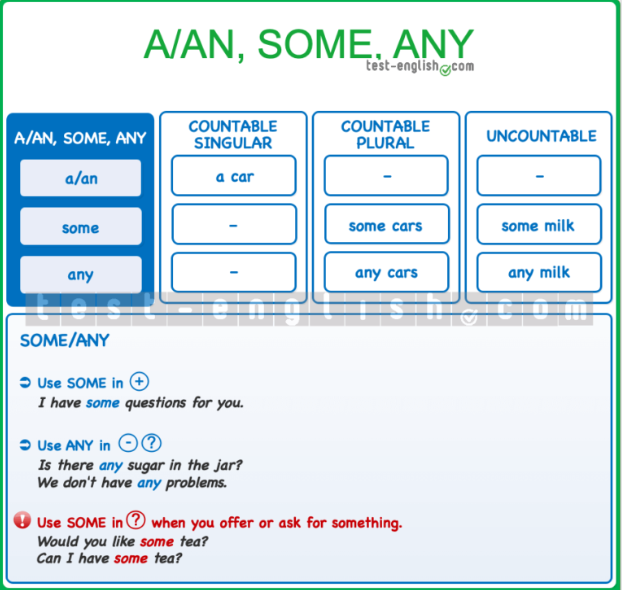
*Yesterday I had two coffees. (=== two cups of coffee)*

*I love coffee. (=== the liquid that we drink)*

*I found one hair in my soup. (===one single hair)*

*She has beautiful hair. (=== the mass of hair on her head)*

**A/AN, SOME, ANY**

***SUMMARY CHART***

**A/AN**

*We use* ***a/an*** *+* ***singular*** *countable noun.*

*I have a new car.*

*She has a brother and a sister.*

*We* ***cannot*** *use* ***a/an******before*** *a* ***plural*** *noun or an* ***uncountable*** *noun.*

*I need to buy sugar. (NOT ~~a sugar~~.)*

*We saw very beautiful places. (NOT ~~a very beautiful places~~.)*

**SOME/ANY**

*We use* ***some*** *and* ***any*** *before* ***countable plural nouns*** *or* ***singular uncountable nouns****.*

*He gave me some coins.*

*He didn’t give me any coins.*

*He gave me some money.*

*Some*

*We use* ***some*** *in* ***positive*** *sentences.*

*We cooked some cookies.*

*Any*

*We use* ***any*** *in* ***negative******sentences*** *and* ***questions****.*

*She didn’t send me any messages.*

*Have you got any brothers or sisters?*

***BUT*** *we use* ***some*** *in* ***questions*** *when we are* ***asking for something*** *or we are* ***offering something****.*

*Can I have some tea? (===I’m asking for some tea.)*

*Would you like some tea? (===I’m offering you some tea.)*

*You can't use a/an + uncountable nouns*

*But you can say* ***a piece of ... / a bottle of*** *... etc. + uncountable noun:*

*a bottle of water*

*a piece of cheese*

*a bowl of rice*

*a carton of milk*

*a bottle of perfume*

*a cup of coffee*

*a bar of chocolate*

*a piece of music*

*a game of tennis*

**A/AN, THE, NO ARTICLE – THE USE OF ARTICLES IN ENGLISH**

**USE A/AN**

***First mention***

*We use* ***a/an*** *when we* ***mention******something*** *for the* ***first*** *time.*

*I saw an old woman with a dog in the park*

***Jobs and descriptions***

*We use* ***a/an*** *to talk about* ***people’s******jobs*** *or to say what* ***kind******of******person*** *or* ***thing******something****/****somebody******is.***

*Paula is a teacher.*

*Paris is an interesting city.*

*When I was a teenager, I enjoyed sleeping.*

***Note*** *that you* ***cannot*** *use* ***singular countable nouns alone*** *(without a, the, my etc.)*

*I don’t have a driving license (NOT ~~I don’t have driving license~~)*

*This hotel doesn’t have a spa. (NOT ~~This hotel doesn’t have spa~~.)*

***When we mean ‘one’.***

*Can I have an orange?*

***For frequency, rates and speeds etc.***

*I work 6 hours a day, and I go to English classes three times a week.*

*The rent is €500 a month.*

*We were driving at 70 km an hour.*

*In the expressions* ***what a/such a*** *+ singular countable noun.*

*What a fantastic idea!*

*Yesterday was such a horrible day!*

*This is such a difficult problem!*

*Thanks, you are such a good friend.*

**USE THE**

***Second mention***

*We use* ***the*** *when we* ***mention******something*** *for the* ***second*** *time.*

*A man and a woman sat in front of me. The man was British, but I think the woman wasn’t.*

***Specific things***

*We use* ***the*** *to talk about* ***specific******things*** *or* ***people****; when it’s clear which things or people we are talking about.*

*‘Where are the kids?’ ‘They’re in the garden.’ (===We know which kids and which garden.)*

*Can you open the door? (===We know which door.)*

***There is only one***

*We use* ***the*** *when there’s* ***only******one*** *of something. When there is only one of something:* ***the earth, the moon, the planet, the internet, the universe, the sky, the city (=not the country), the country (=not the city),*** *etc.*

*This company is very profitable. The manager must be really good.*

*I’d like to live in this country, but not in the capital.*

*The moon looks beautiful today.*

***Common places in town***

*With places in a town where we* ***commonly******go*** *(the park, the cinema, the doctor, etc.)*

*I’m going to the bank.*

*I found Peter at the station.*

*I’m at the library.*

***Superlatives***

*We use* ***the*** *before* ***superlative******adjectives****.*

*This is the best restaurant in town.*

***Musical instruments***

*We use* ***the*** *before names of* ***musical******instruments****.*

*Margaret plays the guitar and I play the flute.*

*When a noun is made specific by* ***details*** *we give* ***after******it.***

*I sat on a chair (maybe one of many).*

*I sat on the chair in the corner.*

*I saw the man who tried to rob me.*

*With the names of* ***oceans****,* ***seas****,* ***rivers*** *and* ***canals.***

*the Mediterranean*

*the Amazon*

*the Panama Canal*

***the top / the end / the middle / the left etc.***

*Write your name at the top of the page.*

*My house is at the end of the street.*

*The table is in the middle of the room.*

*Do you drive on the right or on the left in your country?*

***the radio, the Internet***

*I listen to the radio a lot.*

*What do you use the internet for?*

***the same ...***

*We live in the same street. (NOT ~~in same street~~)*

*Are these two books different? 'No, they're the same. (NOT ~~they're same~~)*

*(go to)* ***the doctor, the dentist***

*You're not well. Why don't you go to the doctor?*

*I have to go to the dentist tomorrow.*

*We* ***do not use the*** *for* ***games*** *and* ***sports****:*

*My favorite sports are football and skiing*

***the -s (plural names)***

*We use* ***the*** *with plural names of countries, islands, mountains.*

*the Netherlands*

*the Canary Islands*

*the Philippines*

*the Alps*

*We use* ***the*** *+ names with ...* ***of*** *...:*

*the Museum of Modern Art*

*the Great Wall of China*

*the University of California*

*the Tower of London*

*We say the north / the south / the east / the west (of ...):*

*I've been to the north of Italy, but not to the south.*

**USE NO ARTICLE**

***General meaning***

*We* ***do not*** *use* ***an article*** *before plural or uncountable nouns to talk about* ***something******in******general****.*

*I don’t drink milk.*

*Women drive more cautiously than men.*

*Compare:*

*I love music. (===Music in general.)*

*I loved the music at the party. (===Specific music.)*

*Children are often difficult. (===Children in general.)*

*They are a nice family. The children are very funny. (===The children in that family.)*

*With* ***home, work, bed, hospital, school, university, college, prison, church*** *when we speak* ***in general*** *(as the place used to live, work, sleep, be hospitalized, learn or be imprisoned.)*

*David isn’t at school this morning. (===learning)*

*She has been in bed all morning. (===sleeping or resting)*

*Maria is in hospital. (===hospitalized, as a patient)*

*They are going to send him to prison (===to be imprisoned)*

***But*** *we* ***use the*** *article if we refer to these places* ***just as places, or buildings****; when they are not used for their main purpose.*

*I found the keys under the bed.*

*I’m going to the school to pick up my children.*

*Yesterday I went to the hospital to visit my grandmother.*

***Meals***

*We do* ***not******use******an******article******before*** *names of* ***meals****: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

*Dinner is served at 8.*

*I always have breakfast with my children.*

***Years, months and days***

*We* ***do not use an article******before*** *names of* ***years****,* ***months*** *and* ***days*** *of the week.*

*Friday is my favourite day of the week.*

*I think 2020 will be an excellent year.*

*With* ***name + number***

*He is in room 15.*

*Go to page 86.*

***TV***

*We* ***do not use an article*** *with* ***TV*** *(when used as a broadcasting service, NOT as an appliance)*

*I saw it on TV.*

*I don’t watch TV.*

***But****: Turn off the TV. I’ve bought a new TV.*

***Names of languages and school subjects***

*We* ***do not use an article*** *before names of* ***languages*** *and* ***school******subjects****.*

*He doesn’t speak English.*

*I study biology.*

***next, last***

*We* ***do not use an article*** *before* ***next*** *and* ***last*** *+* ***time******expression*** *(when they mean before or after now).*

*The meeting is next Thursday.*

*I saw him last week.*

*Compare:*

*Last year we spend one week in London (Last year ===* ***the year before now****).*

*We really loved London. The last day we were really sad. (The last day ===* ***the last day of that trip****.* ***NOT the day before now****)*

*With most names of places, such as* ***continents*** *(Europe, Africa, etc.),* ***countries*** *(Spain, China, etc.),* ***cities*** *or* ***towns*** *(Rome, Bangkok, etc.),* ***mountains*** *(mount Everest, Annapurna, etc.)* ***islands.***

*France is a very large country. (not the France)*

*Cairo is the capital of Egypt.*

*Corsica is an island in the Mediterranean.*

*Peru is in South America.*

***But******names******of******countries*** *that are* ***plural*** *or that* ***include******words*** *such as* ***State*** *or* ***Republic****, or* ***Kingdom*** *are* ***used*** *with* ***the****: the US (the United States), the UK (the United Kingdom), the Philippines, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic.*

*the Czech Republic*

*the United States of America (the USA)*

*the United Kingdom (the UK)*

***SUMMARY CHART***

