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# ENGLISH COURSE

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## I- Definite and indefinite articles

### 1- Introduction:

In English; there are three articles: *a*, *an*, and *the*. Articles are used before nouns or noun equivalents and are a type of adjective. The definite article (*the*) is used before a noun to indicate that the identity of the noun is known to the reader. The indefinite article (*a*, *an*) is used before a noun that is general or when its identity is not known. There are certain situations in which a noun takes no article (*zero article*).

### 2- Definite article ‘The’

#### i. Cases of using ‘The’

1. Used to indicate a noun that is definite or has been previously specified in the context:
  - Please close the door.
  - I like the books you gave me.
2. Before a noun made a definite as a result of being mentioned a second time.
  - Wind turbine produces energy. The energy generates electricity.
3. Before adjectives used to represent a class:
  - The smart engineers.
4. Before certain geometrical names.
  - The Canary Island, The UK.
5. Before superlatives.
  - You gave me the best solution.
6. Used to refer to a time period:
  - I was very shy in the past.
  - This story was very popular in the 1980s.

#### ii. Cases of not using ‘The’

1. Before names of meals. Exp: He has invited me for dinner on Saturday.
2. Before names of languages. Do you speak English?
3. Before people’s titles or professions. Prf Hani gave lectures at our university.
4. After the ‘s’ possessive case. Amper’s law.
5. Before proper nouns. Exp: Ali, Ahmed, ... etc
6. With uncountable nouns. Exp: Liquids (water) / Natural phenomenon (weather) / Feelings (anger) / Gas (air, oxygen) / States of being (sleep)... Electricity ... etc.

### 3- Indefinite article 'a/an'

- i. 'a' is used before singular countable nouns beginning with a consonant.  
**But:** 'a' is used before 'u' or 'eu' when a 'y' sound is produced. Exp: a European.
- ii. 'an' is used before singular countable nouns beginning with a vowel.  
**But:** 'an' is used before 'h' when it is silent. Exp: an hour.
- iii. **Cases of using 'a/an'**
  - 1. Before nouns representing a class. Exp: He is a father.
  - 2. Before noun complements. Exp: It is a smart phone.
  - 3. Before some number and expressions of quality: Exp: a lot of.
  - 4. Before exclamation. Exp: What a lovely day.
- iv. **Cases of not using 'a/an'**

There is no indefinite article in the plural. The word "**some**" is occasionally said to be a plural indefinite article, but really it is a quantifier (like many, few, etc.).

### 4- Solved Exercises:

➤ **Exercise I-1:** Choose the correct article in each sentence.

- 1- Did you bring (a, **an**, the) umbrella?
- 2- I checked (a, an, **the**) mailbox again.
- 3- Can I have (**a**, an, the) spoon please?
- 4- I was born in (**a**, an, the) poor family
- 5- She will come back in (a, **an**, the) hour
- 6- I would like to talk to one of (a, an, **the**) managers
- 7- The helicopter landed on (a, an, **the**) roof of a building

➤ **Exercise I-2:** Choose the correct article: a, an, the or x (no article)

- 1- Do you speak **French**?
- 2- I bought **a new laptop** yesterday
- 3- I think **the man** over there is very ill. He can't stand on his feet
- 4- I am crazy about reading **old history books**
- 5- I could see clouds in **the sky**.
- 6- **Cars** can be dangerous
- 7- He is **an engineer**.

## II- Plural of nouns

### 1- Introduction:

There are many plural noun rules, and because we use nouns so frequently when writing, it's important to know all of them. Some nouns are used only in the singular, even though they end in -s. These include: the names of academic subjects such as classics, economics, mathematics/maths, physics..

### 2- For Regular Nouns

We add 's' to their singular. Exp: office → offices.

**But:** Nouns ending in 'ch, sh, ss, o, x,s', they take 'es' in the plural. Exp: bus → buses.

**With some exceptions:** Exp: photo → photos.

### 3- For Irregular Nouns

- Nouns ending in 'y' with no vowel before take 'ies' in the plural. Exp: city → cities.
- Nouns ending in 'y' with a vowel before, they take 's' in the plural. Exp: day → days.
- Some nouns ending in 'f' or 'fe' take 'ves' in the plural. Exp: life → lives, **shelf, thief**.
- Some nouns do not change in the plural. Exp: fish, sheep, deer.
- In some cases, singular nouns ending in -s or -z, require that you double the -s or -z prior to adding the -es for pluralization. Exp: gaz → gasses.
- If the singular noun ends in -is, the plural ending is -es. Exp: Analysis → Analyses.
- Irregular nouns follow no specific rules, so it's best to memorize these or look up the proper pluralization in the dictionary.

<b>Singular</b>	child	goose	man	woman	tooth	foot	mouse	person
<b>Plural</b>	children	geese	men	women	teeth	feet	mice	people

### 4- Solved Exercises:

➤ **Exercise II-1:** Put the word between brackets in the correct form:

- How many (country) **countries** have you visited?
- Where are my (key) **keys**?
- Many soldiers lost their (life) **lives** during this war.

➤ **Exercise II-2:** Complete the following table:

<b>Singular</b>	desk	mass	delay	Index	zero	quiz	criterion	thesis
<b>Plural</b>	desks	masses	delays	indices	zeros	quizzes	criteria	theses

### III- Possessive Case

#### 1- Introduction:

Possessives show ownership, we can form the possessive only on nouns or pronouns that represent living things, celestial bodies, time, distance, or value.

#### 2- Formation of the possessive case

- i. Singular nouns form their possessive case by adding ('s) to the possessor.

*Exp* : Laptop of the student → The student's laptop.

- ii. Only the apostrophe (') is added if the noun contains too many hissing sounds.

*Exp* : The sister of Charles → The Charles' sister

- iii. Plural nouns ending in -s form their possessive case by adding only an apostrophe.

*Exp*: The teacher of students → The students' teacher.

- iv. Plural nouns that do not end in -s, form the possessive case by adding ('s).

*Exp*: Books of children → Children's books

#### 3- Uses of the possessive case

- The possessive case is used chiefly with the names of living things.

*Exp* : Eyes of the lion → The lion's eyes.

- The possessive case is not normally used with the names of lifeless things.

*Exp*: The leg of the table (NOT The table's leg).

#### Exceptions

- i. The possessive case is often used with the names of personified objects.

*Exp*: Laws of nature → Nature's laws.

- ii. The possessive case is also used with nouns denoting time, space and weight.

*Exp*: In a time of year → In a year's time

- iii. The possessive of a proper noun denoting a trade, profession or relationship can often be used to denote a building or place of business.

*Exp*: She has gone to the baker's. (= baker's shop).

➤ **Exercise III-2:** Write the correct form of the possessives:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1- The room of children is upstairs.        | 2- The school of Steve and John is old. |
| 3- The car of his parents is not expensive. | 4- The drawer of the desk is stuck.     |

## IV- Use Of Prepositions

### 1- Introduction

Prepositions are short words (on, in, to) that usually stand in front of nouns (sometimes also in front of gerund verbs). The only way to learn prepositions is looking them up in a dictionary, reading a lot in English (literature) and learning useful phrases off by heart.

### 2- Preposition of Time

- **On** → days of the week. Exp: I will see you on Monday.
- **At** → night, weekend, certain point of time (when). Exp: The movie starts at 6 pm.
- **In** → months, years, seasons, morning. Exp: He likes to read in the afternoon.
- **Since, for, by, from—to, from—until, during, (with) in** – expresses extended time.
  - She has been gone since yesterday. (She left yesterday and has not returned.)
  - I'm going to Paris for two weeks. (I will spend two weeks there.)
  - The movie showed from August to/until October. (Beginning in August, ends in Oct.)
  - I watch TV during the evening. (For some period of time in the evening.)
  - We must finish the project within a year. (No longer than a year.)

### 3- Preposition of Place

- **In** – describes the point itself. Exp: There is a closet in the room.
- **Inside** – expresses something contained. Exp: Put the paper inside the box.
- **On** – talks about the surface. Exp: I left your keys on the table.
- **At** – talks about a general vicinity. Exp: She was waiting at the corner.
- **Over, above** –if object is higher than a point. Exp: Hang the picture above the closet.
- **Under, underneath, beneath, below** – when the object is lower than a point.
  - The rabbit burrowed under the ground.
  - The child hid underneath the blanket.
  - We relaxed in the shade beneath the branches.
  - The valley is below sea-level.
- **Near, by, next to, between, among, opposite** – when the object is close to a point.
  - She lives near the school.
  - There is an ice cream shop by the store.
  - A tree grows next to my house
  - The house is between two roads.

- I found my pen lying among the books.
- The bathroom is opposite the kitchen.

#### 4- Prepositions to introduce objects of verbs

- **At** – with verbs glance, laugh, look, rejoice, smile, and stare

- She took a quick glance at her reflection.

(Exception with mirror: She took a quick glance in the mirror.)

- You didn't laugh at his joke.
- I'm looking at the computer monitor.
- We rejoiced at his safe rescue.
- That pretty baby smiled at you.
- Stop staring at me.

- **Of** – with verbs approve, consist, and smell

- I don't approve of his speech.
- My contribution to the article consists of many pages.
- He came home smelling of alcohol.

- **Of/About** –with verbs dream and think

- I dream of finishing college in four years.
- Can you think of a number between one and ten?
- I am thinking about this problem.

- **For – with verbs** call, hope, look, wait, watch, and wish

- Did someone call for a taxi?
- He hopes for a raise in salary next year.
- I'm looking for my keys.
- We'll wait for her here.
- You go buy the tickets, and I'll watch for the train.
- If you wish for an "A" in this class, you must work hard.

#### 5- Frequently Misused Prepositions

Prepositions may sometimes be confused because of slang and the general informality of talk.

Here are some frequently misused prepositions.

- **beside, besides.** Beside means next to, whereas besides means in addition.
- The comb is beside the brush.
- Besides planning the trip, she is also getting the tickets.



- **between, among.** Generally, between is used when two items are involved; with three or more, among is preferred.
  - Between you and me, he is among friends.
- **due to.** Due to should not be used as a preposition meaning because of.
- **Because of** (not due to) his speeding, we were all ticketed.
- **inside of.** The of is always unnecessary.
  - Stay inside the house.
  - The man stayed outside (not outside of) the post office.

## 6- Solved Exercises:

**Exercise IV-1:** Fill in the blanks with convenient prepositions using:

(to / in / from / on / for / at / of / near / behind)

1) He went <b>to</b> the market	2) He lives <b>in</b> a small town
3) I met him <b>in</b> the afternoon	4) He took something <b>from</b> the drawer
5) He put the books <b>on</b> the table.	6) He fell <b>from</b> the ladder and broke his leg.
7) Let us hope <b>for</b> the best.	8) There is someone <b>at</b> the door
9) There is a mistake <b>in</b> the third line.	10) This table is made <b>of</b> wood.
11) I live <b>near</b> the sea.	12) I was born <b>in</b> Algeria.

**Exercise IV-2:** Check the proposition between brackets and correct it if it is required.

1. Peter is playing tennis (**on**) Sunday.
2. My brother's birthday is (**on**) the 5th of November.
3. My birthday is (**in**) May.
4. We are going to see my parents (**at**) the weekend.
5. In 1666, a great fire broke out (**in**) London.
6. I don't like walking alone in the streets (**at**) night.
7. What are you doing (**in**) the afternoon?
8. My friend has been living in Canada (**for**) two years.
9. I have been waiting for you (**since**) seven o'clock.
10. I will have finished this essay (**by**) Friday.
11. We are going (**on**) holiday next week.
12. There is a bridge (**across**) the river.
13. Who is the person (**in**) this picture?

14. I will wait (**till**) 6.30, but then I'm going home.
15. I'll be with you (**in**) a moment.

## V. Pronouns

### 1- Introduction

A pronoun is defined as a word or phrase that is used as a substitution for a **noun** or noun phrase, which is known as the pronoun's antecedent. Pronouns are short words and can do everything that nouns can do and are one of the building blocks of a sentence.

### 2- Types of pronouns

The following table summarizes the essential types of pronouns:

Personal Pronouns		Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns		Reflexive Pronouns
subject form	object form	possessive adjective	possessive pronoun	
I	me	my	mine	myself
you	you	your	yours	yourself
he	him	his	his	himself
she	her	her	hers	herself
it	it	its	its	itself
we	us	our	ours	ourselves
you	you	your	yours	yourselves
they	them	their	theirs	themselves

There are other types of pronouns that are widely used in scientific and general writing:

- Demonstrative pronouns – these, that
- Interrogative pronouns – who? which?
- Relative pronouns – that, which, whose, what
- Indefinite pronouns – all, any, someone
- Reciprocal pronouns – one another, each other

**Exercise V-1:** Choose the correct pronoun for the following sentences:

- 1- Who can tell \_\_\_\_ the correct answer. (we/**me**/I).
- 2- \_\_\_\_ house is near hers. (we/**our**/you).
- 3- Where is the bank? I think \_\_\_\_ is on Turner Street. (its/**it**/she).
- 4- James went to the game with Susan and \_\_\_\_\_. (your/**me**/I).
- 5- My daughter can get dressed all by \_\_\_\_ now. (himself/myself/**herself**).
- 6- \_\_\_\_ stole it will be punished. (**whoever**/whom/it).

- 7- The politicians decided to give \_\_\_\_ a pay rise. (they/**themselves**/we).  
 8- She bought it for \_\_\_\_\_. (ours/him/I).  
 9- Are you talking to me? (we/me/I).  
 10- She phoned yesterday. (she/me/my).

## VI- Adjectives and adverbs

### 1. Adjectives

**Adjectives** are describing **words**. They tell you more about **nouns**.

Exps: a **young boy** a **nice girl** this **mouse** is **small** my **dog** is **brown**

### 2. Adverbs

- Adverbs** are words that modify a verb , they often answer three questions :

How? When? Where?

Tom drives **slowly** we know 'how' he drives (drive :verb)

It rained **yesterday** we know 'when' it rained (rain: verb)

Jim is falling **downstairs** we know 'where' he is falling (fall: verb)

---- **Adverbs** are often formed by adding **ly** to an **adjective**

slow => **slowly** beautiful => **beautifully**

Tom has a **slow** car (adj) so he drives **slowly** (adv)

This bird is **beautiful** and it sings **beautifully**

<b>adjective</b>	<b>adverb</b>
nice	<b>nicely</b>
serious	<b>seriously</b>
careful	<b>carefully</b>
quick	<b>quickly</b>
easy	<b>easily</b> change y to i and add -ly
happy	<b>happily</b>
terrible	<b>terribly</b> drop 'le' before adding 'ly'
horrible	<b>horribly</b>
terrific	<b>terrifically</b> adj end by 'ic' add 'ally'
economic	<b>economically</b>

**Note:** not all words ending in -ly are used as adverbs: friendly, kindly and lonely are adjectives as well.

----there are some *important exceptions*:

*adjective*

*adverb*

fast

fast

early

early

low

low

that plane's flying too low

hard

hard

'hardly' is not the adverb from hard, it means 'not much'

Exp: he can hardly walk

late

late

'lately' is not the adverb from late, it means 'recently'

Exp: have you been doing anything interesting lately?

good

well

the adverb form of *good* is *well*

Sarah is a *good student*

I do not feel very *well*

---- do not use 'very' with adjectives like excellent , extremely, fantastic ( if something is excellent or perfect there is nothing better, so you can't say very excellent or very perfect).

**Exercise VI-2:** Write the correct form of the words in brackets (adjectives or adverbs).

1. Liza is (quick) quick . She walks quickly .
2. Ali is a (careless) careless boy. He drives his car carelessly .
3. The man is (nice) nice . He behaves nicely .
4. He was (bad) badly injured. He had a bad accident.
5. We do the maths problems (easy) easily . We think maths is an easy module.
6. Marie is a (good) good writer. She writes well .
7. It's a (beautiful) beautifully drawn picture. it looks beautiful .
8. Drivers must drive (slow) slowly in this road. It is a (dangerous) dangerous road?
9. She smiled (happy) happily . She had a happy face.

**Exercise VI-1:** Complete the following exercise with the correct form of the words.

- a. That pitbull looks angry. (angry).
- b. She spoke quietly. (quiet).
- c. Erica listened to her mother carefully. (careful).
- d. Mary makes careless mistakes. (careless).
- e. Children grow quickly (quick).
- f. He is very happy today. (happy).