

## Articles in Set Expressions

### Group 1. Set expressions with the definite article

- at the beginning : His name was mentioned at the beginning of the story.
- at the end : The index is at the end of the book.
- at the latest: Be at the train station by five o'clock at the latest.
- at the moment; at the present time : I don't have a job at the moment.
- at the most, at most : I can pay fifty dollars at the most.
- at the same time : He couldn't be in two places at the same time. At the same time, I agree with your opinion.
- at the scene of : He was seen at the scene of the accident.
- by the way : By the way, where is my book?
- do the dishes, wash the dishes: Please wash the dishes after dinner.
- get to the point : Let's get to the point.
- go to the cinema : How often do you go to the cinema?
- in the beginning : In the beginning, the story was rather dull.
- in the center : You see a house in the center of the picture and several trees in the background.
- in the end : In the end, they got what they deserved.
- in the face of : He continued his work in the face of danger.
- in the middle : It is in the middle of the book.
- in the morning; in the afternoon; in the evening : Call me in the evening.
- live in the city : He lives in the city.
- live in the country : They live in the country.
- make the bed : She made the beds in the bedrooms.
- off the point, beside the point : This question is off the point.
- on the alert : He is always on the alert.
- on the house : They paid for sandwiches and pies; coffee and tea were on the house.
- on the left; on the right : His house is on the right.
- on the move; on the run : He is always on the move.

- on the one hand; on the other hand: On the one hand, I don't want to go there. On the other hand, I want to talk to Mike, and he will be there.
- on the point of : They are on the point of breaking up. She was on the point of death a year ago.
- on the radio : I heard it on the radio.
- on the telephone: She is talking on the phone to her sister.
- on the way : We stopped several times on the way to the summer house.
- on the whole : On the whole, your plan seems interesting.
- out of the question : This is out of the question.
- play the piano; play the violin; play the drums : Can you play the piano?
- tell the time: Can you tell me the time?
- tell the truth : He told you the truth.
- the other day : I talked to Maria the other day.
- under the influence : He was driving under the influence of alcohol.
- under the weather : I'm feeling a little under the weather today.
- What's the difference?
- What's the matter?
- What's the point?

## **Group 2. Set expressions with the indefinite article**

- a grain of truth : There is a grain of truth in his words.
- a lot of : He has a lot of problems.
- an only child : She was an only child.
- a slip of the tongue : Sometimes, a slip of the tongue can lead to serious things.
- all of a sudden : All of a sudden, she jumped to her feet and ran out of the room.
- as a matter of fact : As a matter of fact, he is broke.
- as a result : All this happened as a result of his negligence.
- as a rule : As a rule, he goes for a walk before bedtime.
- as a whole : We should consider these issues as a whole.
- at a glance : He understood at a glance what was going on there.
- at a loss : He sold his business at a loss. I was at a loss for words.
- at a time : Don't hurry and don't try to do two things at a time.

- cost a pretty penny : Their new car cost a pretty penny.
- do a favor: Can you do me a favor?
- for a long time: I haven't seen her for a long time.
- give a ride, give a lift : Can you give me a ride to the bank? Can you give me a lift to the train station?
- go for a walk : He went for a walk.
- have a cold : He has a cold.
- have a good time: Did you have a good time at the party?
- have a headache: I have a headache.
- have a problem : She has a problem with mathematics.
- in a hurry : I'm in a hurry.
- in a minute; in a few minutes; in a week; in a year : I'll be free in a few minutes. He'll come back in a year.
- make a living : She makes a living by selling flowers from her garden.
- make a fortune : He made a fortune in oil.
- make an appointment : I'd like to make an appointment with a doctor.
- quite a bit of : We spent quite a bit of time trying to find the key.
- quite a few : There were quite a few people there.
- take a break : Let's take a ten-minute break.
- tell a joke; tell a story : He told me a very funny story.
- tell a lie : He told you a lie.

### **Group 3. Set expressions without any article**

- at best : It will give us three or four days at best.
- at first : At first he refused to go with us.
- at first sight : It was love at first sight.
- at home; at school; at work : She is at home. Her son is at school. Her husband is at work.
- at last : We are free at last!
- at least : I need at least two days to prepare for the meeting.

- at noon; at night; at midnight : Her train arrives at noon.
- at once : Ask him to come at once.
- at present (but: at the present time) : We don't have a car at present.
- at times : He feels worse at times.
- by chance : I met him by chance.
- by heart : Learn the dialogue by heart.
- by mail; by e-mail : I sent the report by mail.
- by mistake : I did it by mistake.
- day by day; from day to day; day after day; day in, day out: He worked hard all his life, day in, day out.
- do homework : She has already done her homework.
- face to face : She knows about him, but she has not met him face to face yet. We need to discuss it face to face.
- for example; for instance : Fruits and vegetables are good sources of vitamins and minerals. Citrus fruits, for example, are the main sources of vitamin C.
- from time to time: We go there from time to time.
- go by bus, by plane, by train, by car : We will go there by bus. Do you want to go by train?
- go to bed : It's time to go to bed.
- go to church : They often go to church.
- go to school, go to college : She wants to go to college.
- go to work : He goes to work every day.
- have breakfast; have dinner : We had breakfast at eight o'clock.
- have fun : Have fun!
- in advance : They paid for it in advance.
- in class; in school; in college : They do some exercises in class. Her son is five; he is not in school yet. They met in college.
- in debt : She is in debt.
- in detail : Describe the house in detail.
- in fact : In fact, he is in charge of the whole company.
- in general : In general, I like to read detective stories.

- in principle : They accepted his plan in principle.
- in prison : He is in prison now.
- in reality : He looks strict, but in reality he is a kind man.
- in spite of : He continued his work in spite of danger.
- in style; in the latest style : These dresses are not in style.
- in time : They came in time to get good seats before the lecture.
- in trouble : If you do it, you'll be in trouble.
- Keep in touch.
- make coffee; make tea : She made coffee and sandwiches for us.
- make breakfast; make dinner : She is making breakfast now.
- make money : They promise that we will make money quickly. He makes good money. She doesn't make much money.
- of course : Of course I know it! He will be there, of course.
- off guard : Her words caught him off his guard. Her words caught him off guard.
- on board : There were about a hundred passengers on board the plane.
- on credit : I bought it on credit.
- on duty : Who is on duty today?
- on foot : We had to go there on foot.
- on guard : He is always on his guard. He is always on guard. Three soldiers were on guard at night.
- on hand : I don't have a calculator on hand.
- on principle: He did it on principle.
- on purpose : He did it on purpose.
- on sale : I bought this coat on sale.
- on second thought : We wanted to go to Italy in summer. But on second thought, we decided to go to France.
- on time : I came to the meeting on time.
- on TV : I saw this film on TV.
- out of date : This equipment is out of date. Her clothes are old and out of date.
- out of order : The elevator is out of order.
- out of place : The armchair is out of place. His remark was out of place.

- out of town : He is out of town.
- play football; play tennis; play chess : Do you play chess?
- stand in line; wait in line : We had to stand in line for two hours. But: stand in a queue; wait in a queue. (BrE)
- take care of : Please take care of my dog while I'm away.
- Take care!
- take place : When did that incident take place?
- time after time; time and again : They asked him time after time not to do that.
- time of day : The temperature of the soil depends on the time of day. The pond in the park is especially beautiful at this time of day.
- time of year: Days become shorter at this time of year. Early autumn is my favorite time of year.
- up to date : Is this information up to date? I need an up-to-date report.
- word for word : Please repeat word for word what he said to you.