

EXERCISES

- 57.1 Make sentences combining words from (i) and (ii). Add a connecting verb and a/an or the. If zero article is an alternative for the, write the / -. (A, B & C)

- i
- 1 Barcelona
 - 2 Javier Perez de Cuellar
 - 3 Le Monde
 - 4 France
 - 5 Ghana
 - 6 Wall Street
 - 7 Nelson Mandela
 - 8 The Great Wall of China
 - 9 Greenland

- ii
- a largest island in the world.
 - b member of the European Union.
 - c president of South Africa in 1994.
 - d site of the 1992 Olympic Games.
 - e only constructed object visible from space.
 - f important financial centre.
 - g newspaper published in France.
 - h republic in 1957.
 - i Secretary General of the UN from 1982 to 1991.

Example: 1 Barcelona was the site of the 1992 Olympic Games.

- 57.2 Put a/an, the or - in the spaces. If zero article is an alternative for the, write the / -. (B & C)



BOB COLLINS: A PROFILE

Bob Collins recently become (1) minister in the new government, being appointed (2) Minister for Industry. Mr Collins has had a varied career. He was (3) professional footballer in the 1960s, some people considering him to be (4) most skilful player of his generation. After a serious injury, he became (5) manager of (6) oldest pub in Edinburgh. Five years later, he was offered the position of (7) executive director of Arcon, one of (8) biggest supermarket chains in the country. He became (9) Member of Parliament in 1990.

- 57.3 If necessary, correct these sentences. (A-D)

- 1 Sri Lanka has the wonderful climate.
- 2 The organisation's aim is to educate the public about the dangers of smoking.
- 3 We need an environment free from pollution.
- 4 She has worked in a fashion industry since she left school.
- 5 The wind is blowing dust all the way from Africa.
- 6 We can look forward to a warm southerly wind this weekend.
- 7 The USA is a country with the high level of immigration.
- 8 How can we combine economic growth and respect for an environment?
- 9 Car exhaust emissions are having a major effect on a world's climate.
- 10 That's Terry - he's the third person on the right.
- 11 She has become the important figure in Norwegian politics.
- 12 It's a most important issue and we need to discuss it in detail.

The and a/an (1): 'the only one'

A

We use **a/an** with a singular noun when we describe someone or something or to say what type of thing someone or something is:

- English has become an *international* language.
- Sydney is a *beautiful* city.

But if we say that someone or something is *unique* – that there is only one, or that it is the only one of its kind – we use **the** (or sometimes zero article, i.e. no article), but not **a/an**:

- English has become the international language of business.
- Sydney is the capital city of New South Wales.

B

We use **a/an** to say what a person's job is, was, or will be:

- She was a company director when she retired.
- Against her parents' wishes, she wants to be a journalist.

However, when we give a person's job title, or their unique position, we use **the** or zero article, not **a/an**. Compare:

- She's been appointed (the) head of the company. *and*
- I'm a production manager at Fino. (= there may be more than one production manager)

After the position of, the post of, or the role of we use zero article before a job title:

- Dr Simons has taken on the position of Head of Department.

C

We use **the** before a *superlative adjective* (the biggest, the most expensive, etc.) when the superlative adjective is followed by a noun or defining phrase:

- He is the *finest young player* around at the moment.
- This painting's the *most unusual in the collection*.

However, we can often leave out **the**, particularly in an informal style, when there is no noun or defining phrase after the superlative adjective.

- A: Why did you decide to stay in this hotel?
B: It was (the) cheapest. / It was the cheapest I could find.

When **most** before an adjective means 'very' or 'extremely' we can use **a** (with countable singulars) or zero article (with plurals and uncountables) – rather than **the** – when there is no following noun. **Most** is used in this way particularly in a rather formal spoken style. In everyday conversation we generally use a word such as 'very' instead:

- He was a most peculiar-looking man. (= a very peculiar-looking man)
- It was most expensive petrol. (= extremely expensive)

D

We use **the** when we know that there is only one of a particular thing. For example:

- the sun the world the North Pole the jet age the international market
the travel industry the arms trade

The same applies to the following things when we refer to them in a general way:

- the weather the climate the human race the atmosphere the sea the public
the environment the sky the ground the wind the future the past

However, if we want to describe a particular instance of these we use **a/an**. Compare:

- She could hear the wind whistling through the trees outside. *and*
- There's a cold wind blowing from the north.
- What are your plans for the future? *and*
- She dreamt of a future where she could spend more time painting.

The and a/an (2): 'things already known', etc.

A

We use *the* when we expect the listener or reader to be able to identify the thing or person we are talking about, and we use *a/an* when we don't. Compare these pairs of sentences:

- Helen's just bought a house in Wilson Street. *and*
- Helen's just bought the house in Wilson Street. (= the house for sale we have previously talked about)
- A Korean student in our class has had to go home. *and*
- The Korean student has had to go home. (= the Korean student we have previously talked about)
- There's a bus coming. *and*
- The bus is coming. (= it's the bus we are waiting for)
- There's a woman from the bank on the phone. *and*
- He's in a meeting with the woman from the bank. (= you know which woman I mean)

B

We also use *the* when it is clear from the situation which person or thing we mean:

- What do you think of the table? (= the table we are looking at)
- This tastes lovely. What's in the sauce? (= the sauce here on my plate)
- The tree looks beautiful now that it's spring. (= the tree here in the garden)

C

Study these examples:

- Dorothy took a cake and an apple pie to the party, but only the apple pie was eaten.

We say 'an apple pie' when we first mention it, and 'the apple pie' after that, when the listener or reader knows which apple pie we mean.

- There was a serious fire in a block of flats in Glasgow last night. The building was totally destroyed.

We say 'a block of flats' when we first mention it. We use 'the building' because the listener (or reader) will know which building we mean.

Even if the person or thing hasn't been mentioned before, if the person or thing we mean can be understood from what has been said before, we use *the*:

- We had a good time on holiday. The hotel (= the hotel we stayed in) was comfortable, and the beach (= the beach we went to) was only ten minutes away.

Notice that fictional writing (novels, short stories, etc.) will often mention something for the first time with *the* to build up suspense, expectation, etc. For example, a story might begin:

- The woman opened the gate and looked thoughtfully at the house.

D

The is often used with nouns before a phrase beginning *of...* The *of...* phrase connects this noun to a particular thing or person:

- Pictures can help students learn the meaning of new words.
- The disease could have killed off half the population of the country.
- He was woken up by the sound of gunfire.

Compare these sentences with:

- Each new word has a different meaning.
- The country has a rapidly expanding population.
- He suddenly heard a sound like a gunshot.

Some nouns are commonly used in the pattern *the...of...* to refer to a particular place, time, etc., including back, beginning, bottom, end, middle, side, top:

- In the middle of his speech he started to cough uncontrollably.

EXERCISES

58.1

Decide if the most appropriate articles (a/an and the) are used in each of these texts. (A–D and Unit 57)

- 1 Dan was playing outside in a street when he saw a red car go past driven by the teacher from his school.
- 2 A University has announced proposals to build a new library, to replace an existing one by the year 2005.
- 3 A: The car's been stolen from outside a house!
B: Oh, no. I left my wallet and the camera in it.
- 4 I must buy the tin opener. I keep having to borrow one from a woman next door.
- 5 A: Jane bought a fridge and a washing machine for her house, but the washing machine wouldn't go through a kitchen door so she had to send it back.
B: What did a shop say?
A: They offered to sell her a smaller one.
- 6 Now, when I start pushing a car, take your foot off the clutch. If it doesn't start then, I'll have to phone the garage.
- 7 We went out to the excellent restaurant last night. The food was delicious and the service was first class.
- 8 A: Where's a tea pot?
B: It's in the cupboard on the right.
A: I thought you had a blue one.
B: Yes, but it broke so I had to get the new one.
- 9 A: I've no idea what to get Mark for his birthday.
B: What about a new jumper?
A: Well...it's not the very interesting present.
B: Why don't you buy him a set of golf clubs he's always wanted?
A: What a great idea.
- 10 Dr Pike has developed a way to teach musical theory. A method is designed for children over five.
- 11 A: Who's a woman in red?
B: She's a journalist, I think. She works for a local newspaper.
- 12 Once, when I won the competition, I had to choose between a holiday in Disneyland and a Volvo. I chose a car, of course.



58.2

Write a sentence beginning *The...of...*, with a similar meaning to the one given. (C)

- 1 The telephone has had an enormous impact on how we communicate.
The impact of the telephone on how we communicate has been enormous.
- 2 The company has a complex management structure.
- 3 The drought had a severe effect on agriculture.
- 4 Picasso has had a substantial influence on modern art.
- 5 We should not underestimate how important Crogan's discovery is.
- 6 The bad weather meant that the bridge wasn't completed on time.

The, the zero article and a/an: 'things in general'

A

In generalisations we use zero article, but not the, with *plural or uncountable nouns*:

- Before you put them on, always check your shoes for spiders.
- I'm studying geography at university.
- I can smell smoke!

When we use the with a plural or uncountable noun, we are talking about specific things or people:

- The books you ordered have arrived.
- All the information you asked for is in this file of papers.

Compare these pairs of sentences:

- Flowers really brighten up a room. (= flowers in general) *and*
- The flowers you bought me are lovely. (= particular flowers)
- Industry is using computers more and more. (= industry in general) *and*
- The tourism industry is booming in Malaysia. (= a particular industry)
- Children should be given a sense of how business works. (= business in general) *and*
- The aerospace business actually lost \$6 billion this year. (= a particular business)
- She's an expert on Swedish geology. (= among other Swedish things) *and*
- She's an expert on the geology of Sweden. (= specifically of Sweden) (see also Unit 58D)

B

We can use the with a *singular countable noun* to talk about the general features or characteristics of a class of things or people rather than one specific thing or person. In

- Nowadays, photocopiers are found in both the office and the home.

we are talking about *offices* and *homes* in general rather than a particular *office* and *home*.

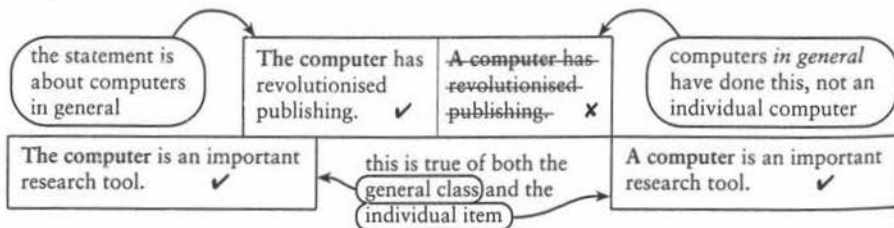
Notice that we could also say 'in both offices and homes' with little difference in meaning.

Compare the use of the and a/an in these sentences:

<i>talking about a general class</i>	<i>talking about an unspecified example</i>
The novel is the most popular form of fiction writing. (or Novels are...)	Reading a novel is a good way to relax. (or Reading novels is...)
The customer has a right to know where products are made. (or Customers have...)	When the phone rang, I was busy serving a customer.



Study the use of the and a/an in these sentences:



Notice that when we define something we generally use a/an rather than the:

- A Geiger counter is a device for detecting and measuring the intensity of radiation.
- A corkscrew is a gadget for getting corks out of bottles.

EXERCISES

60.1

Complete these sentences using one of these words. Use the where necessary. Use the same word in both (a) and (b) in each pair. (A)

advice coffee food French history magazines music teachers

- 1 a all over the world have published photos of the royal baby.
b Emily left we asked for on the table.
- 2 a played a very important part in his life.
b I thought used in the film was the best part.
- 3 a I've forgotten most of I learnt at school.
b I'm learning at night school.
- 4 a I'll always be grateful for he gave me.
b I asked my father for about the problem.
- 5 a Put you bought straight into the fridge.
b at that new Indonesian restaurant was excellent.
- 6 a I never did enjoy studying
b I'm reading a book about of the New Zealand Maori.
- 7 a The world price of has reached a record high.
b we got last week from the Brazilian café was excellent.
- 8 a In my opinion, deserve to be better paid.
b need to have enormous patience.

60.2

Delete any phrase which can't be used to form a correct sentence. (B)

- 1 The white rhinoceros / A white rhinoceros is close to extinction.
- 2 The bicycle / A bicycle is an environmentally friendly means of transport.
- 3 The development of the railway / A development of the railway encouraged tourism throughout Europe.
- 4 The fridge / A fridge is today considered an essential in most homes.
- 5 Writing the letter / a letter is often cheaper than telephoning.
- 6 Laszlo Biro is normally credited with having invented the ball-point pen / a ball-point pen.
- 7 The experienced test pilot / An experienced test pilot earns a considerable amount of money.
- 8 The Jumbo Jet / A Jumbo Jet has revolutionised air travel.
- 9 The credit card / A credit card is a convenient way of paying for purchases.

60.3

All the articles (a, an, and the) have been removed from this text which describes the operation of a camera. Replace them where necessary. (Units 57-60)

Camera is piece of equipment used for taking photographs.
Camera lets in light from image in front of it and
directs light onto photographic film. Light has effect
on chemicals which cover film and forms picture on
it. When film is developed it is washed in chemicals
which make picture permanent. It is then possible to
print picture onto photographic paper.

People and places

We usually use zero article before the names of particular people:

- President Clinton is to make a statement later today.
- The name of Nelson Mandela is known all over the world.

However, we use **the**:

- when there are two people with the same name and we want to specify which one we are talking about:
 - That's not **the** Stephen Fraser I went to school with.
- when we want to emphasise that a person is the one that everyone probably knows:
 - Do they mean **the** Ronald Reagan, or someone else?
- When it is used this way, **the** is stressed and pronounced /ði:/.
 - with an adjective to describe a person or their job:
 - **the** late (= dead) Buddy Holly **the** artist William Turner
 - **the** Aboriginal writer Sally Morgan **the** wonderful actor Harrison Ford
- when we talk about a family as a whole:
 - **The** Robinsons are away this weekend. (= the Robinson family)

Notice that **a/an**, or sometimes **zero article**, is used with a name to mean that someone else has or does not have the particular excellent qualities of the person named:

- Jane plays tennis well, but she'll never be (a) Steffi Graf.

We can also refer to a painting by a famous artist as, for example, 'a Van Gogh'.

You can use **a/an** before a person's name if you don't know the person yourself. Compare:

- There's a Dr Kenneth Perch on the phone. (= I haven't heard of him before) Do you want to talk to him?
- Dr Perch is here for you. (= I know Dr Perch)

Study these examples:

• They say he'll have to stay in hospital for six weeks.	• Tom's mother goes to the hospital to see him every day.
• Sue's at university studying French.	• Frank works as a security guard at a university.
• School should be a place where children are taught to enjoy learning.	• They're building a school at the end of our street.

• We use **zero article** when we talk about institutions such as hospital, university, prison, school, college, or church being used for their intended purpose: medical treatment in hospital, studying in university, and so on. We use **articles** when we talk about them as particular places or buildings. Notice that we talk about bed in the same way. Compare:

- She usually stays in bed till late at the weekend. *and*
- 'Have you seen my socks?' 'You left them on the bed.'

When we talk about cinema, opera or theatre in general, or when we refer to a building where this type of entertainment takes place, we use **the**:

- I try to go to the cinema at least once a week. (= cinema in general)
- We usually go to the cinema in New Street. (= a specific cinema)

However, if we are talking about a form of art, we generally prefer **zero article**:

- Not many children enjoy opera. (*rather than* ...enjoy the opera.)

EXERCISES

61.1 Put *a/an*, *the* or *zero* article (–) in the spaces. If two answers are possible, give them both. (A & B)

- 1 Are we talking now about John Smith who led the Labour Party?
- 2 We're going to a barbecue with Simpsons.
- 3 There's Linda Jones to see you.
- 4 A special award was given to film director Ingmar Bergman.
- 5 The prize is to be given each year in memory of late Ayrton Senna.
- 6 We met our old friend Romey Thompson in Sydney.
- 7 That surely can't be Jenny Watson we knew in Zimbabwe.
- 8 I found myself sitting next to Boris Yeltsin! Not Boris Yeltsin, of course, but someone with the same name.
- 9 I didn't realise how rich he was until I heard that he owns Picasso.
- 10 He's really keen on football. He likes to think of himself as Paul Gascoigne.
- 11 Have you heard that Woodward's are moving house?

61.2 Write the where necessary in these sentences. If the sentence is already correct, put a ✓. (B)

- 1 Can I drive you to the university? It's on my way.
- 2 When I'm in London, I always go to theatre.
- 3 Margaret believes that all children should go to church every Sunday.
- 4 In Sweden, children start school when they are six or seven.
- 5 Jim's been in hospital for six weeks now.
- 6 He lives near church on the hill.
- 7 She's going to university to do French.
- 8 There was a fire at school in Newtown.
- 9 Even her most dedicated fans wouldn't call her new play a great work of theatre.
- 10 Have you heard hospital is going to close?
- 11 It's time the children went to bed.
- 12 He's been in and out of prison since he left school.

Look again at those in which zero article is correct before the place or institution. Which of them could have *the*? What would be the difference in meaning?

61.3 Who do you think is being described in these text extracts? (A)

- 1 ...previously unknown work by the German philosopher and writer,, has been discovered...
- 2 ...has been revealed that the youngest American president,, was...
- 3 ...the king of rock and roll,, who died in 1977...

Think about how you would describe other famous people in a similar way. One is done for you.

- 1 ...the former Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping...
- 2
- 3

UNIT 56**56.1**

- 1 an 2 a 3 an
 4 a 5 a 6 an
 7 a 8 a 9 a
 10 an 11 a 12 an
 13 a 14 a

56.2

- 1 one a
 2 ✓ (both 'one' and 'a' are possible)
 3 one a
 4 ✓ (both 'one' and 'a' are possible)
 5 ✓ ('a' is not possible)
 6 one a
 7 one a
 8 ✓ (both 'one' and 'a' are possible)
 9 one a
 10 one a
 11 ✓ (both 'one' and 'a' are possible)
 12 ✓ ('a' is not possible)
 13 one a
 14 one A
 15 one a; one a
 16 ✓ (both 'one' and 'a' are possible)

56.3

- 1 a/one
 2 one
 3 a
 4 a/one
 5 a
 6 One
 7 one
 8 an
 9 one
 10 one
 11 a; an
 12 a ('one' is also possible if we want to emphasise that we heard only one bell, but 'a' seems more likely here)

UNIT 57**57.1**

- 2 Javier Perez de Cuellar was the/- Secretary General of the UN from 1982 to 1991.
 3 Le Monde is a newspaper published in France.

4 France is a member of the

European Union.

5 Ghana became a republic in 1957.

6 Wall Street is an important financial centre.

7 Nelson Mandela became the/- president of South Africa in 1994.

8 The Great Wall of China is the only constructed object visible from space.

9 Greenland is the largest island in the world.

57.2

- 1 a 2 the/- 3 a
 4 the 5 the/- 6 the
 7 - 8 the 9 a

57.3

- 1 has a wonderful
 2 ✓
 3 ✓
 4 in the fashion industry
 5 ✓
 6 ✓
 7 with a high level
 8 for the environment?
 9 on the world's
 10 ✓
 11 become an important figure
 12 ✓

UNIT 58**58.1**

The most likely answers are given together with a brief explanation where appropriate and a comment on alternatives.

- 1 the street... (= it is understood which street - perhaps the one outside his house); a red car; a teacher ('the teacher' would suggest that it was a particular teacher who had already been talked about which seems unlikely in this context)
 2 The University (= it is understood which university); a new library; the existing one ('the' suggests that there is only one, which seems most likely in this context); the year 2005.

3 The car's; the house (= it is understood which house; the most likely context is that it is the speaker's house); a/the camera (both 'a' and 'the' are possible here; 'the camera' would suggest an already-known camera - perhaps 'our' camera)

4 a tin opener; the woman next door. ('the woman' suggests the speaker is talking about a woman who is known by the hearer; 'a woman' is unlikely here)

5 A: a fridge; a washing machine; but the washing machine; the kitchen door;
 B: the shop;
 A: a smaller one.

6 the car; the clutch; a/the garage. (both 'a' and 'the' are possible here; 'the garage' would suggest that the hearer will know which one is being referred to - perhaps the garage that they always use)

7 an excellent restaurant; The food; the service

8 A: the tea pot? (= the one we always use or the one I know you have)

B: the cupboard; the right
 A: a blue one.
 B: a new one.

9 B: a new jumper?
 A: a very interesting present.
 B: the set of golf clubs?
 (compare 'Why don't you buy him a set of golf clubs?')

A: a great idea.

10 a way; The method

11 A: the woman
 B: a journalist; a/the local newspaper.
 (both 'a' and 'the' are possible here; 'the' suggests that B will understand which local newspaper is being referred to - perhaps there is only one)
 12 a competition; a holiday; a Volvo; the car

58.2

- 2 The management structure of the company is complex.
 3 The effect of the drought on agriculture was severe.
 or The effect on agriculture of the drought was severe.

- 4 The influence of Picasso on modern art has been substantial.
or The influence on modern art of Picasso has been substantial.
- 5 The importance of Crogan's discovery should not be underestimated.
- 6 The completion of the bridge was delayed by the bad weather.

UNIT 59

59.1

- 1 some (/səm/)
2 some (/sɒn/)
3 -
4 some (/səm/)
5 some (/səm/)
6 -
7 -
8 some (/səm/)
9 -;
10 some (/səm/)
11 some (/səm/)
12 -

59.2

- 1 ✓
2 Some medicines
3 ✓
4 ✓
5 ✓
6 ✓
7 some water
8 some people
9 Some books

59.3

- 1 same
2 different
3 same
4 different
5 different

UNIT 60

60.1

- 1 a Magazines; b the magazines
2 a Music; b the music
3 a the French; b French
4 a the advice; b advice
5 a the food; b The food
6 a history; b the history
7 a coffee; b The coffee

- 8 a teachers ('the teachers' would suggest a particular group of teachers rather than 'all teachers'); b Teachers

60.2

- 1 The white rhinoceros
2 The bicycle / A bicycle
3 The development of the railway
4 The fridge / A fridge
5 a letter
6 the ball-point pen
7 The experienced test pilot / An experienced test pilot
8 The Jumbo Jet
9 The credit card / A credit card

60.3

The most likely answers are given.

A camera is a piece of equipment used for taking photographs. The camera lets in light (or the light) from an image in front of it and directs the light onto photographic film. The light has an effect on the chemicals (or on chemicals) which cover the film and forms a picture on it. When the film is developed it is washed in chemicals which make the picture permanent. It is then possible to print the picture onto photographic paper.

UNIT 61

61.1

- 1 the 2 the 3 a
4 the 5 the 6 -
7 the 8 a or -; the 9 a
10 a or - (If we use - we mean that he likes to imagine that he is the footballer, Paul Gascoigne. With a we mean that he likes to think that he has the same footballing qualities as Paul Gascoigne.)
11 the

61.2

- 2 the theatre
3 ✓
4 ✓
5 ✓ ('the hospital' would be referring to a particular hospital known to the hearer)
6 the church

- 7 ✓ (If we say 'the university, we assume that the hearer knows which particular university we are talking about; perhaps it is the local university. With zero article - which seems more likely here - we mean something like 'she is studying French at university level'.)
8 the school
9 ✓ ('the theatre' is also possible, but less likely here)
10 the hospital
11 ✓
12 ✓ ('the prison' would be referring to a particular prison known to the hearer)

61.3

- 1 Karl Marx (although other answers are possible)
2 John F. Kennedy
3 Elvis Presley (although other answers are possible)

UNIT 62

62.1

- 1 a -; b a; c the/ - (If we use zero article here, we mean 'last Monday', and the accident occurred at some time between then and now.)
2 a the; b a; c -
3 a -; b the; c a
4 a a; b the; c the/-
5 a the/-; b a; c the

62.2

The answers given here are as they appeared in the original texts. Possible alternatives are given.

- 1 a night ('the night' is also possible: 'a night' = one night; 'the night' = a particular night)
2 the morning
3 at night
4 in the afternoon
5 On Saturday morning ('The Saturday morning is also possible = a particular Saturday morning)
6 used at night
7 during the afternoon
8 at night
9 it was an evening
10 during the night