

Use	Example
Organisations	definite article: the army, the police, the fire brigade
Education	definite article: go to the school (as a visitor), be in the first year zero article: go to school (as a student), be in Class 3B, maths
Travel	indefinite article: take a taxi, catch a/the bus definite article: on the bus zero article: on foot, go home, go by bus
Health	indefinite article: have a cold/headache/cough definite article: have (the) flu/measles zero article: have toothache
Public buildings	definite article: the bank, the tax office, go to the hospital/prison (as a visitor) zero article: go to hospital/prison/church (as a patient/prisoner/worshipper)

US vs UK Grammar

- Speakers of American English do not usually use *hospital* without an article.

US: The ambulance took Simon to **the** hospital.

UK: The ambulance took Simon to hospital.

Countable and uncountable nouns

Type	Example
Countable nouns ● Use <i>a, the, some, many</i> ● Use a singular or plural verb	I want to be a journalist. Where is the newspaper? There are some good articles in the paper. How many channels do you get?
Uncountable nouns ● Use <i>the, some, much</i> ● Use a singular verb	Did you hear the news? Some important news has just come in. How much information do we have about it? Your advice was very useful.
Common uncountable nouns: <i>advice, coffee, furniture, glass, hair, homework, information, knowledge, luggage, money, news, paper, work</i>	

Watch out!

- Most uncountable nouns are singular, but a few are plural. These include *clothes, scissors, jeans, spectacles, trousers, groceries*, etc. With these words, we use a plural verb.
✓ Oh, no! My new **clothes** **are** dirty!
- Some nouns are countable with one meaning and uncountable with another meaning.
✓ Do you think you could bring me **a** clean **glass**? (countable)
✓ We should make computer monitors out of recycled **glass**. (uncountable)

Quantifiers

Quantifier	Use	Example
<i>many</i>	● countable nouns, usually in negative statements and questions	There aren't many programmes on TV that I find interesting.
<i>much</i>	● uncountable nouns, usually in negative statements and questions	My dad never shows much interest in the news.
<i>a lot of / lots of</i>	● countable and uncountable nouns in positive statements	That film has won a lot of / lots of awards. What a lot of luggage you've got!
<i>a few</i>	● countable nouns, means 'some'	There have been a few scandals in the papers recently.
<i>a little</i>	● uncountable nouns, means 'some'	They say that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.
<i>few</i>	● countable nouns, means 'not many'	Richard has few interests outside work.
<i>little</i>	● uncountable nouns, means 'not much'	The police have little information about the robbery.

Watch out!

- The phrase 'only a few' means 'not many'. The phrase 'only a little' means 'not much'.
✓ There are **only a few** programmes on TV that I like watching.
✓ There's **only a little** sugar left, so get some when you go out.