

Articles

Rules

Direct article - *the*

example: the house

Indirect article *a / an*

a - if the first letter of the following word is **pronounced** like a consonant (līdzskanis)

example: a car, a university

an - if the first letter of the following word is **pronounced** like a vowel (patskanis)

example: an apple, an hour

Zero article (no article) “_”	Indirect article “a/an”	Direct article “The”
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-countable or plural nouns• Not specific• Many• First time mentioned• When meaning “all” or “in general”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Countable nouns• Not specific• One• First time mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both• Specific• Both• Mentioned before• Noun is described• Noun is the only one (the sun, the economy)

Non-countable nouns – something that cannot be counted (liquids, food, sports, languages, etc.)

Always with “the” – united countries, large regions, deserts, peninsulas, oceans, seas, gulfs, canals, rivers, mountain ranges, groups of islands

Never with “the” – streets, parks, cities, states, counties, most countries, continents, bays, single lakes, single mountains, islands

Examples

*I do not want **a** gun in my house* (any gun).

***The** gun is in his closet* (implies there is a specific gun).

*I am afraid of **guns*** (all guns in general).

*She sent me **a** postcard from Italy* (an unspecific postcard - not a letter, not an e-mail).

*It's **the** postcard that I have in my office* (one specific postcard).

Getting postcards makes me want to travel (any postcard in general).

*I have **a** dog* (one dog).

***The** dog is very friendly* (the dog that I have already mentioned).

*Dogs make great **pets*** (dogs in general).

Greta needs furniture in her apartment (furniture is a noncount noun).

*She is going to select **the** furniture that she needs* (the specific furniture that she needs).

*She hopes to find **some** furniture this weekend* (an unspecified, limited amount of furniture).

*We are going to see **the** Statue of Liberty this weekend* (the only Statue of Liberty).

Possessive Case of Nouns

Rules

adding 's	'of' phrase
usually used for people	usually used for things
<i>Ronny's brother</i>	<i>the name of the school</i>

If there is a relation to people when using the possessive case with unanimated things, often the s is added instead of using an of phrase.

example: Germany's economy or the economy of Germany

When using the possessive case with a time, s is added.

example: a three weeks' holiday

We **always** add -s with an apostrophe ('s) in English.

- Ronny**'s** brother

1. Singular

Add **'s** to the noun.

- Mandy**'s** brother John plays football.
- My teacher**'s** name is ...

2. Plural

Add the apostrophe ' to regular plural forms:

- The girls' room is very nice.
- The Smiths' car is black.

Add 's to irregular plural forms:

- The children's books are over there.
- Men's clothes are on the third floor.

If there are multiple nouns, add 's only to the last noun:

- **Peter and John's** mother is a teacher.

If there are multiple nouns *that refer to one person/thing* – add 's to the **last** noun.

- **Peter and John's** mother is a teacher.

If there are multiple nouns *that refer to more persons/things* – add 's to **both** nouns.

- **Susan's and Steve's** bags are black.

3. Singular names ending in -s

Although it is not considered to be good English, you may add only the apostrophe words ending on unpronounced -s

- Charles's dog – Charles' dog
- Illinois's capital – Illinois' capital

Words ending in -x and -z follow the same rules.

- Felix's car – Felix' car

But there are situations where only 's is the best choice to make the meaning clear.

Exercises

Articles

A Circle the correct word or phrase.

- 1 I love this time in **evening** / **the evening** when the sun is going down.
- 2 People play **cricket** / **the cricket** in South Africa, Australia and Sri Lanka.
- 3 It's too far to walk so I think I'll catch **bus** / **the bus**.
- 4 Jane had to go home from school because she had **a headache** / **the headache**.
- 5 The robber was sent to **prison** / **the prison** for a total of three years.
- 6 My cousin works as **waiter** / **a waiter** in a cafe near where we live.
- 7 The underground doesn't run this late so we'll have to take **a taxi** / **the taxi**.
- 8 I like to listen to **music** / **the music** in my free time.
- 9 My favourite subject at school is **chemistry** / **the chemistry**.
- 10 Jazz music appeared in America **in 1920s** / **in the 1920s**.

B Choose the correct answer. If no word is needed, choose 'D'.

- 1 Oh, I didn't tell you! We've got new English teacher.
A a B an C the D no word
- 2 Here's DVD you asked to borrow.
A a B an C the D no word
- 3 We're out of coffee, so could you get some from the supermarket?
A a B an C the D no word
- 4 The prize is unique opportunity to travel the world!
A a B an C the D no word
- 5 It looks like glass in your bedroom window is cracked.
A a B an C the D no word
- 6 It's honour to be here this evening to speak to you.
A a B an C the D no word
- 7 There's good chance we'll be late for the meeting.
A a B an C the D no word
- 8 Reports are coming in of a major oil spill in Mediterranean.
A a B an C the D no word
- 9 I went to see the doctor because I'm finding it difficult to sleep at night.
A a B an C the D no word
- 10 Do you think that they'll ever send a manned mission to Venus?
A a B an C the D no word

Read this story and fill in the gaps with the correct article: *a/an, the* or – (no article). For one gap you will need a possessive adjective.

I first experienced terror when I was seven. My mother lived in London, but after a brief liaison with (1) soldier from the United States she became pregnant and fled to (2) country. (At that time, fifty years ago, it was considered shameful to be a single parent.) A great aunt of hers lived in (3) cottage in (4) North Wales, and there she was able to bring me up in (5) peace, pretending that she was a widow. (6) locals were all very friendly to us and accepted us without question, and I had (7) blissful childhood.

One day I arrived home from (8) school to find my mother clutching (9) telegram, in floods of tears. (10) telegram informed her that her father – my grandfather – had died. His funeral would be in three days and we had to go to London. I had never been outside (11) village and I was really excited at the thought of going to (12) capital city. So, two days later, we boarded a train to London. It was (13) first time I had been on a train and I could barely contain (14) excitement of such an adventure. Several hours later we arrived. I clutched my mother's hand as we stepped down from the train. (15) station was full of people rushing home from (16) work and it was quite dark. Now (17) fear was starting to creep into my mind. Then, suddenly, we were in (18) street outside the station. I had never seen so many people, buses and cars, nor heard so much noise. I was terrified. I opened (19) mouth and the wail that I let escape was one of (20) sheer terror.

Possession

H Form possessives from the nouns given.

- 1 (Billy): Billy's opinion
- 2 (my mum): cooking
- 3 (our next door neighbours): cat
- 4 (George the Fifth): daughter
- 5 (people): prejudices
- 6 (the Greenes): holiday home
- 7 (women): magazines
- 8 (the boss): car

J If a line is correct, put a tick (✓) next to the number. If there is an extra word in a line, write it next to the number.

FIRST DAY AT WORK

- 1 Well, Trisha, that's my own first day at my new job out of the way. I wasn't
- 2 sure what to expect, but it turned out okay. My manager was really nice,
- 3 much nicer than yours boss sounds from your letter. No sooner had I arrived
- 4 at work than did he made me a cup of tea! It was a really pleasant surprise.
- 5 Not only did he do that, but he was also kind enough to explain to me how
- 6 everything worked. The office is really modern and its comfortable. The other
- 7 people all have their own desks, but mine desk still hasn't been delivered, so
- 8 I am sharing with someone else for now. Little did I not realise when I took
- 9 the job that I was going to enjoy it so much. I have finally found a job that I
- 10 am happy in, and so will you have, I'm sure. Hope tomorrow's as much fun!

2 26.1

Eight of these sentences contain mistakes. Tick (✓) the correct sentences, then find and correct the mistakes.

- 1 Elizabeth is a good friend of him.
- 2 I'm really fed up with my landlord's wife's endless complaints about noise.
- 3 As the English say, ones' home is ones' castle.
- 4 You should pay attention to what he says; he's a close associate of the managing director.
- 5 Don't blame him; it was mine own fault.
- 6 She's been put in charge of childrens' activities at the summer camp in Maine.
- 7 Since they got married they've only been interested in each other.
- 8 My brother's-in-law's parents have decided to emigrate.
- 9 We don't know him very well; he's just an acquaintance of us from our university days.
- 10 There's something wrong with that buses' brake lights.

4 26.3

Use the words (1–15) in the box to form compound nouns that fit in the same numbered gaps in the text. You will need to add the second part of the compound yourself. The exercise begins with two examples (0) and (00).

Today's consumer guide looks at (0) *laptop* computers. The range of these portable computers on the market can be daunting, but a good place to start is computer magazines. These often contain useful (00) *buyer's guides* and reviews of models currently on the market. Suppliers of the leading (1) often sell their products at cut prices through these magazines. If you decide to buy by (2) you will find the advertisements a good source of bargains. And if you pay by (3) you will automatically be insured. But if you need help in choosing a model, it might be better to shop in the (4) where you can ask a (5) for impartial guidance and advice.

You should make a (6) of the features and facilities you require, and these will depend to a large extent on the way you plan to use your machine. If you use a lot of graphics (7) you'll need a fast processor, a large (8) and a high-definition screen. If you are only going to be using the machine for (9) processor speed will not be so important, but you will want a comfortable and sturdy (10)

Almost everyone these days needs to access the Internet in order to use e-mail and cruise the (11) , so look for a high-speed modem. Be aware of the input and (12) devices you want; CD and floppy disk drives usually come as standard, but you may want a DVD drive or a PC-card slot.

Once you have checked all these features you can compile a (13) of models you are interested in. Check that your chosen models include comprehensive (14) and ask your supplier about warranties and (15) service.

- 0 lap
- 00 buyer's
- 1 brand
- 2 mail
- 3 credit
- 4 high
- 5 shop
- 6 check
- 7 soft
- 8 hard
- 9 word
- 10 key
- 11 world
- 12 out
- 13 short
- 14 instruction
- 15 after