



TECHNICAL WRITING

ARTICLE

1. Functions of articles:

- New/Old Information
- Classifying/Identifying

2. Choosing articles: the or a

3. No article

Article + Noun

a/an (1) **new**

- I saw a man.

(2) **non-specific**

- Could you lend me a pen?

the (1) **old**

- The man was crying.

(2) **specific**

- Could you lend me the pen?

'a/an' or 'the'

- **a/an** (1) **new** (2) non-specific
- **the** (1) **old** (2) specific

- A gunman tried to use a female employee as a hostage after a failed attempt to rob a bank this morning.
The hostage was released unharmed and the gunman surrendered.
- After the police surrounded the bank, the woman was released and the situation ended peacefully.

- We were thinking of buying a house in Mapo, but the kitchen was too small.
- I worked there for a while, but the pay was terrible.
- You have to fill out a form to apply for a credit card.
The credit card application form actually represents a contract.

'a/an' or 'the'

- **a/an** (1) new (2) non-specific
→ **classifying**
- **the** (1) old (2) specific
→ **identifying**

Article 'a/an': classifying

: saying it is a member of a category

(정해지지 않은 막연한 명사 앞)

Buying **a** building is **a** good way of investment.

(어떤 범주에 속해있음을 밝힐 때)

- His first film is **a** comedy. (<영화의 한> 종류)
- I'm **a** socialist, not **a** communist. (신념)
- I'm **a** student. (직업)
- A dolphin isn't **a** fish, it's **a** mammal. (정의)
- That painting is **a** Picasso. (~ 작품)
- Is your watch **a** Rolex? (~ 제품)

Article 'the': Identifying

: treating ... as already known

(이미 말한 명사를 다시 말할 때)

- I met **a boy** yesterday. (...) The boy was...

(서로 아는 것을 말할 때)

- "Would you open the door?"

(인간의 일상에서 공유하는 하나뿐인 대상)

- the sun, the moon, the earth, the sky, the weather, the environment

cf. This new planet has *two moons* while **Earth** has only *one moon*. (지구 외 행성의 위성)

Earth vs the earth

(from the Chicago Manual of Style)

In non-technical contexts the word *earth*, in the sense of our planet, is usually lowercased when preceded by *the*

the earth

or in such idioms as “down to earth” or “move heaven and earth.”

When used as the proper name of our planet, especially in context with other planets, it is capitalized, and *the* is usually omitted.

Earth

- Some still believe the earth is flat.
- Where on earth have you been?
- Mars, unlike Earth, has no atmosphere.

Cf. 단, 요즘은 ‘태양’, ‘달’에 대해 ‘the sun’, ‘the Sun’, ‘Sun’, ‘the moon’, ‘the Moon’, ‘Moon’ 병용 중

'a' or 'an'

- **a** book (O) / **a** apple (X)
- **an** apple (O)

• an을 사용하는 기준은 철자가 아닌 발음

- a / an university, a / an umbrella
- a / an house, a / an honest person
- Write a / an 'U' and a / an 'N'

<문장 작성시 적절한 관사 선택>

1. a/an + 명사

2. the + 명사

3. (Ø) + 명사

a/an + 명사

1. 셀 수 있는 명사

: a desk, a bench, an apple, an orange

2. '하나'인 (단수)명사

: a person, a cup, ~~a people~~, ~~a books~~

3. 정해지지 않은 막연한 명사

: Buying a building is a good way of investment.

a/an + 명사

4. 어떤 그룹/범주를 나타내는 명사 (category)

: I'm a student.

: That is a Picasso/a Calvin Klein. (~ 작품/제품)

5. 어떤 종족 전체를 나타낼 때

: A dog is a loyal animal. (개라는 동물은...)

(=The dog is ... = Dogs are ...)

a/an + 명사

6. '~마다'의 의미로

: I visit my grandmother once a week.
(=once per week)

7. '같은'의 의미로

: People of a generation are easy to communicate each other. (=the same generation)

the + 명사

1. 셀 수 있는/없는 명사

: the desk, the desks / the water

2. 지시대상이 정해진 명사

: Look at the kid standing next to the door.

3. 서로 알고 있는 대상을 언급할 때

: Would you open the window?

the + 명사

4. 이미 언급했던 명사를 다시 언급할 때

: I met a boy who is excellent at English. ...

The boy was proud of himself.

5. 모두가 공유하는 하나뿐인 대상

: The sun rises every morning.

: The world is facing a crisis.

6. 어떤 종족 전체를 나타낼 때

: The dog is a loyal animal. (개라는 동물은...)

(=A dog is ... = Dogs are ...)

the + 명사

7. 최상급 형용사 다음에 나오는 명사

: She is the smartest student in our class.

8. [~번째]를 나타낼 때

: The second runner received his baton.

: On the third day of September, we will meet.

Cf. first/second prize vs the first/second prize

1등상, 2등상

처음으로/두번째로 받은 상

- I took first prize in the contest. (1등상)

- It is the first prize which I won. (처음으로 받은 상)

the + 명사

9. 'the + 형용사'로 단수/복수 명사 표현

: The deceased *was* respected by a number of people. (=The dead person)

: The rich *are* not always happier than the poor.
(=rich people) (=poor people)

10. 측정 단위를 나타내는 명사

: They pay us by the month.

: Americans prefer wine by the glass. But selling wine by the bottle is more efficient for the customer.

the + 명사

14. 악기, 발명품

: I can play the piano.

: The internet is the greatest invention in the last century.

15. 방향, 방위를 나타낼 때

: Turn to the left at the corner.

: Go to the east, and you will find a big mountain.

16. [the 형용사 비교급]~, [the 형용사 비교급]...

: The harder you work, the more you will earn.

the + 고유명사

17. 일부 고유명사 앞에

(1) 국가 명칭에 나라의 상태를 묘사하는 단어가

포함된 경우: republic, state(s), democratic, union, confederation, kingdom, empire, islands ...

: The Republic of Korea is...

: the United States of America = the USA

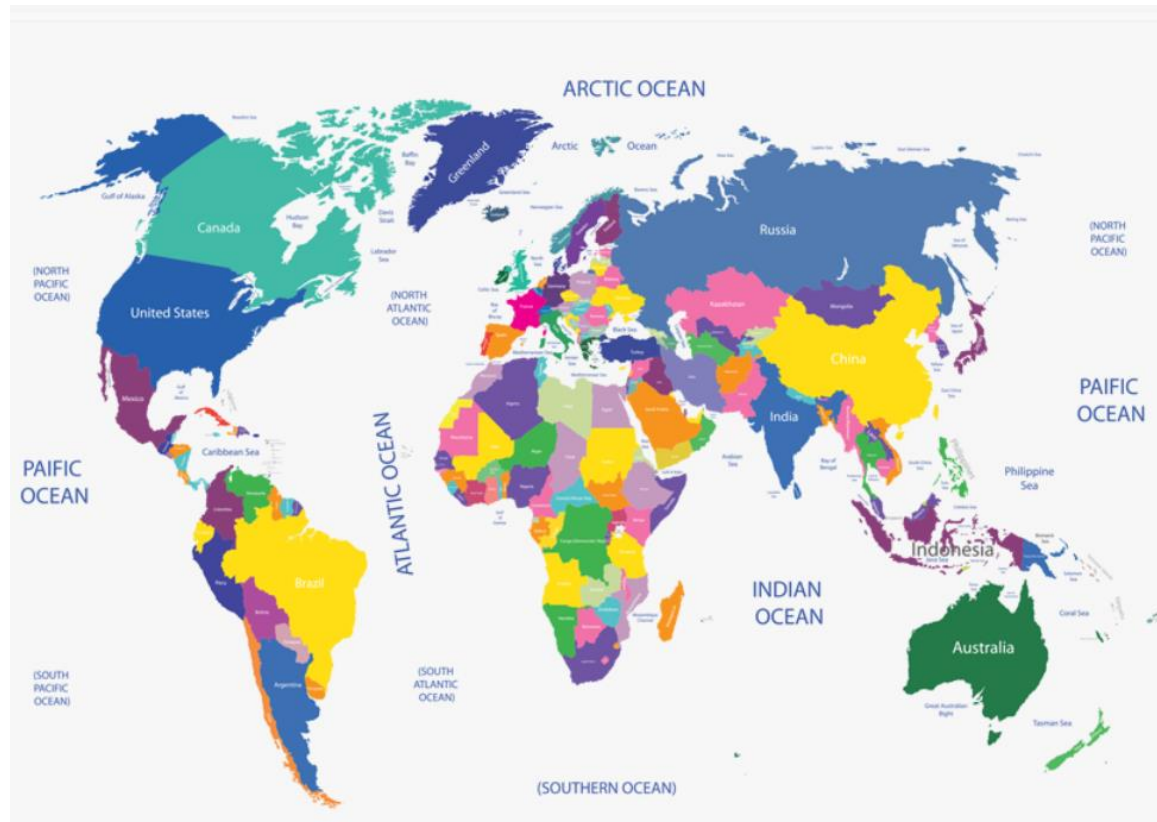
: the United Kingdom = the UK

: the Solomon Islands

: the Netherlands

the + 고유명사

(2) 바다, 강, 해협, 운하 (흐르는 물) 앞에:



Source: jing.fm

- The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean in the world.
- cf. Lake Baikal is the oldest lake in the world. (흐르지 않는 물)

the + 고유명사

(3) 사막 이름 앞에:



Source: wikipedia

- The Gobi Desert is a large desert in Asia.

the + 고유명사

(4) 산맥 이름 앞에:



Source: wikipedia

- Mount Everest is Earth's highest mountain above sea level, located in the Mahalangur Himal sub-range of the Himalayas. (cf. Ø+산 이름)

the + 고유명사

(5) 반도 이름 앞에:

- A peninsula is a landform surrounded by water on the majority of its border while being connected to a mainland from which it extends.
- Korea was a historical country in East Asia consisting of the Korean Peninsula, Jeju Island, and several minor surrounding islands

the + 고유명사

(6) 열차, 선박 이름 앞에:



Source: wikipedia

Poster advertising the winter 1888–1889
timetable

: The Orient Express was a long-distance passenger train service.

the + 고유명사

(7) 신문, 잡지 이름 앞에:



: The Financial Times is an English-language international daily newspaper owned by Japanese company Nikkei, Inc.

the + 고유명사

(8) 공공기관, 조직/(건물) 이름 앞에:

: **the** government / ex. **The** Korean government is...

: **the** police / ex. Call the police!

ex. My son wants to join the police when he grows up.

cf. 경찰관 한 명 a police officer (a police X)

경찰관 여러 명 police (= individual police officers)

ex. After police / police officers / the police surrounded the bank, he was released.

: **The** Korean Embassy / **The** Seoul City Hall is...

: **The** World Health Organization is ...

: **The** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is ...

Cf. 역, 항구, 공항, 공원 이름 앞에는 the 안 붙임

: Seoul Station, Incheon Airport

the + 고유명사

(10) 두문자어(Acronym)의 경우:

- 한 단어처럼 읽으면 the X: UNESCO, NATO
- 각 철자대로 읽으면 the 사용: the WHO, the UN

(11) 지시대상이 한 명 뿐인 칭호/작위(title) 앞에:

: the King, the Queen, the Pope...

cf. Queen Elizabeth

(12) 이름 앞에 설명해주는 명사나 형용사 올 때:

: the writer Hemingway, the artist Picasso

(∅) 명사

(1) 일반적이거나 전체적인 뜻의 복수명사:

- : Dogs like to go for walks.
- : Women live longer than men.

(2) 일반적인 물질이나 추상적 뜻의 명사:

- : Sugar is harmful for our health.
- : Happiness is in one's mind.

(Ø) 명사

(3) 장소 명사가 본래의 용도에 맞게 쓰일 때:

- : We go to school from Monday to Friday.
- : I went to hospital / a hospital / the hospital.
- : He went to bed around 11:00 pm last night.

(4) By + 교통수단/통신수단

- : I go to work by bus / by subway
- : Please send us your invoice by email / by fax.

(Ø) 명사

(5) 식사, 운동, 질병을 나타내는 명사:

: I don't skip breakfast in any case.

: My friends play soccer almost every day.

: He has a strong will to overcome cancer.

: Diabetes is a disease that occurs when your blood sugar is too high.

: We can overcome COVID-19.

Cf. 가벼운 질병은 a/an 사용

: I have a headache/a cough/a cold/ a stroke.

Cf. He's got flu/ the flu.



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