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articles (2)

nationality

- We use *the* with nationality adjectives that end *-ese*, *-ch*, *-sh*, *-ss* and are used to refer to all the people of that nationality, eg *Chinese*, *Japanese*, *French*, *Spanish*, *British*, *Swiss*, *Dutch*.
The French drink a lot of wine.
The Swiss are famous for their banks.
- We use *the* with plural nationality nouns in same way, eg *Russians*, *Americans*, *Poles*, *Greeks*, *Turks*, *Germans*, *Belgians* etc.
The Russians and *the Poles* are used to cold weather.
- We use *a* / *an* with singular examples.
an Australian, *a* Greek, *a* Turk, *a* Russian, *a* Pole, *a* Romanian, *a* Bulgarian, *an* Egyptian, *a* Jordanian
Some nationalities end in *-man* / *woman*, and others have unique names.
an Englishman / *an* Irishman / *a* Scotsman / *a* Welshman / *a* Frenchman / *a* Dutchman
a Spaniard / *a* Cypriot / *a* Pakistani / *an* Iraqi / *a* Saudi / *a* Filipino
Some nationalities can only be used as an adjective with a noun, eg *Japanese person* / *man*.

geography

- We use *the* with the names of oceans, seas, rivers, geographical areas.
They crossed the Pacific / the Atlantic / the Mediterranean etc in a small boat.
The sun sets in the West. *She travelled widely in the Middle East.*
We took a voyage down the Danube.
- *The* is used with *north*, *south* etc. to indicate geographical areas, but zero article is used to describe general directions.
The sun sets in the west. *The road runs from north to south.*
- We use zero article with continents, countries, lakes.
Lake Geneva borders *France* and *Switzerland*.
Morocco is in *Africa*.
- We use *the* with plural or collective names.
From here you can see the Alps.
She lives in the Philippines / the Netherlands / the United Kingdom / the USA.
- Names of mountains vary.
He's climbed Everest and Mont Blanc but not *the Matterhorn*.
- Names of islands normally use zero article unless they have post-modification with *of* ...
I've been to Crete / Majorca / Cuba.
I haven't been to the Isle of Wight.
- We use *the* with deserts.
The Sahara is not as dry as most people think.

school subjects

- We use zero article when we talk about school subjects, such as *geography*, *history*.
I'd rather study physics than biology.
- These can also be used as adjectives with article + noun.
I've started a physics course.
The biology teacher is really good.

calendar

- We use zero article when we refer to days, months or parts of the day.
*I'll see you **on Monday at midday**. School begins **in September**.*
- We can use *the* with a day of the week when we refer to a particular week, and *the* with a month when we refer to a particular year.
*It started as an ordinary week but **on the Friday** I received a surprising message.*
- We use *a / an* with a day of the week when we refer to the day as a typical example.
*It was **a Tuesday afternoon** in August and nothing much was happening.*

home, school, prison, hospital, work

- We use zero article with *at home, at school, in hospital, in prison, in bed* when we speak about the place in general, or with reference to its use.
*Jack is **in hospital**. (he's ill)*
*Sue is **at school**. (she's a student)*
- When we refer to something just as a building, place, etc we use *the*.
*The bus stops **outside the school**. (the building)*
*Leave the towels **on the bed**. (the item of furniture)*
*I was walking **past the hospital**. (the building)*
*There was a riot **in the prison**. (the building)*
- Compare: *Alan's **in bed**. (he's asleep)*
*There's something crawling **in the bed**! (the item of furniture)*

other generalized locations and activities

- We use other phrases with zero article to describe what people are doing or where they are in general.
***on holiday** **on tour** (performers) **on location** (place where a film is shot)*
on stage** **on duty** **at work
- Specific examples use *a / an* or *the*.
*They decided to take **a holiday abroad**. He ran **onto the stage**.*

changes of meaning

- Some nouns can be countable or uncountable and have different meanings according to the article they use.

<i>a / an</i>	<i>a coffee</i>	<i>a cup of coffee</i>	<i>Can I buy you a coffee?</i>
<i>the</i>	<i>the coffee</i>	<i>grains or beans etc.</i>	<i>Put the coffee in the jar.</i>
<i>zero</i>	<i>coffee</i>	<i>in general</i>	<i>Do you like coffee?</i>
- Many names of substances have a change of meaning when used as a single object.

<i>glass</i>	<i>a glass</i>	<i>for holding water etc</i>	<i>glasses</i>	<i>for helping the eyes</i>
<i>iron</i>	<i>an iron</i>	<i>for smoothing clothes</i>		
<i>paper</i>	<i>a paper</i>	<i>a newspaper or a piece of published research</i>		
- Some food nouns which usually have no plural can be used with *a / an* to talk about one particular type of that food.
*I try to eat as much fresh **fruit** as I can.*
*This is **a fruit** that only grows in the tropics.*

Other foods used in this way are: wine, beer, cheese, meat, oil.

(See also Unit 20.)

Exercises in this unit also practise material from Unit 20.

1 Complete the sentence with *a / an* or *the*, or leave blank for zero article.

- a The victim was waiting for bus outside hospital when offence took place.
- b Maria forgot to turn off iron when she went to answer knock at door, and she burnt hole in ironing board.
- c We went to Crete on holiday and spent week walking over mountains admiring scenery.
- d After you put coffee in machine, fill it with water, and make sure water comes up to level of thick black line.
- e When I'm at work, I'm only allowed to take personal calls in emergency.
- f Helen is in bed with temperature, so trip to country has been postponed until next week.
- g At last minute, David decided to go away for few days and stay in hotel by sea.
- h train to Manchester was half hour late by time it reached Watford.

2 Complete the text with *a / an* or *the*, or leave blank for zero article.

The Great Wall of China

a The Great Wall of b China is one of c wonders of d modern world, and became e UNESCO Heritage site in 1987. It is f one of g longest (6,700 km) structures in h world, and has i history of more than j two thousand years. k building of l wall began between m 7th and 8th centuries BC as n means of defending most of o China from p invading people of q north. r rulers of different parts of s country built sections of t wall, and these were joined together in u time of v Qin dynasty. During w Ming dynasty (1368–1644 AD) x wall was repaired and extended and took on y appearance it has today, with z complex system of 1 forts and towers. It has 2 average height of ten metres and 3 width of five metres, and it runs from 4 east to 5 west.



3 Complete the sentence with *a / an* or *the*, or leave blank for zero article.

- a *The* British are famous (or notorious) for amount of fast food they eat.
 b We went on field trip to Lake District as part of final year geography course.
 c Jim is at work at moment. He's personal trainer.
 d story begins on quiet afternoon at end of July.
 e Can I have coffee in glass with milk, please.
 f Helen works at hospital at end of road.
 g Peter was in bed with attack of flu.
 h film was shot on location in Philippines.
 i On my way to work in morning I usually buy paper before I get on bus.
 j When he's on duty at prison, Jack has to wear uniform.

4 Complete the text with *a / an* or *the*, or leave blank for zero article.

The Dominican Republic

a *The* Dominican Republic is b country of approximately 8 million people, and is located on
 c eastern two-thirds of d Caribbean island of e Hispaniola, which is f second-largest of
 g Greater Antilles islands. h western part of i island forms j Republic of k Haiti.
 l capital of m country is n city of o Santo Domingo and is located in p southern
 part of q island. r second largest city is s Santiago. t country has three major mountain
 ranges, and u highest peak is v Pico Duarte (3,175m). w geography of x country is
 varied, and ranges from y semi-desert plains to z lush valleys of tropical rainforest. 1 economy
 depends largely on 2 agriculture, with 3 sugar as 4 main crop, though 5 mining and
 6 tourism are also important.



GLOSSARY

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Choose a paragraph from a book and make a practice passage like the ones in Exercises 2 and 4. Replace all articles with a space, add spaces for zero article, and add some trick spaces. Ask someone else in the class to complete your practice passage, and show them the original passage so they can check their answers.

Need more practice? Go to the **Review** on page 208.