**CM 1607 – LECTURE ONE – HANDOUT ONE**

1. **ARTICLES**
2. **ACADEMIC WRITING**

**ARTICLES**

**Grammar rule 1**

When you have a single, countable English noun, you must always have an article before it. We cannot say “please pass me pen”, we must say “please pass me **the** pen” or “please pass me **a** pen” or “please pass me **your** pen”.

Nouns in English can also be uncountable. Uncountable nouns can be concepts, such as ‘life’, ‘happiness’ and so on, or materials and substances, such as ‘coffee’, or ‘wood’.

**Grammar rule 2**

Uncountable nouns don’t use **‘a’** or **‘an’**. This is because you can’t count them. For example, advice is an uncountable noun. You can’t say “he gave me an advice”, but you can say “he gave me **some** advice”, or “he gave me **a piece of** advice”.

Some nouns can be both countable and uncountable. For example, we say “coffee” meaning the product, but we say “**a** coffee” when asking for one cup of coffee.

**Grammar rule 3**

You can use **‘the’** to make general things specific. You can use **‘the’** with any type of noun – plural or singular, countable or uncountable.

“Please pass me **a**pen” – any pen.  
“Please pass me **the** pen” – the one that we can both see.

“Children grow up quickly” – children in general.  
“**The** children I know grow up quickly” – not all children, just the ones I know.

“Poetry can be beautiful”- poetry in general.  
“**The** poetry of Hopkins is beautiful” – I’m only talking about the poetry Hopkins wrote.

**More uses of English articles**

Here are some more rules for when we use English articles “a/an” and “the” – or when we omit the article:

**RIVERS, MOUNTAIN RANGES, SEAS, OCEANS AND GEOGRAPHIC ARE AS**ALL USE ‘**THE**‘.  
For example, “**The** Thames”, “**The** Alps”, “**The** Atlantic Ocean”, “**The** Middle East”.

**Unique things** have **‘the’**.  
For example, “**the** sun”, “**the** moon”.

**Some institutional buildings**don’t have an article if you visit them for the reason these buildings exist. But if you go to the building for another reason, you must use **‘the’**.

“Her husband is in prison.” (He’s a prisoner.)  
“She goes to **the** prison to see him once a month.”

“My son is in school.” (He’s a student.)  
“I’m going to **the**school to see the head master.”

“She’s in hospital at the moment.” (She’s ill.)  
“Her husband goes to **the** hospital to see her every afternoon.”

**Musical instruments** use ‘**the**‘.  
“She plays **the** piano.”

**Sports** don’t have an article.  
“He plays football.”

**Illnesses** don’t have an article.  
“He’s got appendicitis.”  
But we say “**a** cold” and “**a**headache”.

**Jobs** use **‘a’**.  
“I’m **a** teacher.”

**COUNTRIES**  
We don’t use **‘a’** if the country is singular. “He lives in England.” But if the country’s name has a “plural” meaning, we use **‘the’**. “**The** People’s Republic of China”, “**The** Netherlands”, “**The** United States of America”.

**Continents, towns and streets** don’t have an article.  
“Africa”, “New York”, “Church Street”.

**Theatres, cinemas and hotels** have **‘the’**.  
“**The** Odeon”, “**The** Almeira”, “**The**Hilton”.

**Abbreviations** use **‘the’**.  
“**the** UN”, “**the** USA”, “**the** IMF”.

We use **‘the’** before **classes of people.**  
“**the** rich”, “**the** poor”, “**the**British”.

**ENGLISH ARTICLES QUIZ**

**A famous detective and his deputy -** (This story is based on a famous joke.)

1. A famous detective and his deputy were walking in \_\_\_\_\_ forest.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ forest was dark and a little bit frightening.
3. Soon it began to get dark. But luckily they had \_\_\_\_\_tent with them.
4. They decided to stay \_\_\_\_\_ night.
5. They put up their tent under \_\_\_\_\_ stars and went to sleep.
6. Then, in the middle of the night, there was \_\_\_\_\_ loud noise.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ detective woke up.
8. He looked up at \_\_\_\_\_ sky.
9. Then he woke up \_\_\_\_\_ deputy and asked, ''What can you see?''
10. The deputy replied, ''I see millions and millions of \_\_\_\_\_ stars.''
11. The detective asked, ''And what is your \_\_\_\_\_opinion about that?''
12. The deputy replied, 'Well, if there are millions of stars, and if even a few of those have \_\_\_\_\_ planets, ''
13. ''It’s quite likely there are some planets like \_\_\_\_\_ Earth out there.''
14. ''If there are \_\_\_\_\_ few planets like Earth out there,''
15. ''there might also be \_\_\_\_\_ life.''
16. The detective replied, ''You idiot! It means that somebody stole \_\_\_\_\_ tent.''

Source: [https://www.english-at-home.com/grammar/articles/#](https://www.english-at-home.com/grammar/articles/)

**ACADEMIC WRITING - ACTIVITY ONE**

Answer the following questions briefly, in your own words.

1. What is academic writing?

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Make 2 sentences each using the following words. 01 for everyday use and 01 for academic use:

a) discipline b) underline

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Academic writing contains words that are neutral, but they are also rather formal expressions which are not common in everyday use. Give more formal words for the neutral words given below:

a) in short b) only c) almost

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Write the most suitable preposition to match the noun.

a) attempt b) changes, differences

c) investigation, research d) work, influence

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….………………………………………………………………………..…