

Course Overview

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to EFG331 Fundamentals of English Grammar which is one of the required courses for the Bachelor of Education (TESL) programme. This is a 3 credit course conducted over a semester of 14 weeks.

COURSE AUDIENCE

EFG331 is a core subject for all students who intent to do Bachelor of Education (TESL). Thus, student should be able to thoroughly understand the chapters covered in this course before pursuing to higher level of other education subjects.

STUDY SCHEDULE

The student should accumulate 120 hours for this course. Table 1 shows the approximation of study time that the students should allocate during a semester.

A. Credit Hour: 3 hours (120 learning hours per semester)

Table 1: Approximate Study Time Allocation

ACTIVITIES	HOURS
Understanding the course content, initial discussions and completion of exercises.	70
Attending tutorial sessions.	10
Online discussions.	5
Completion of Assignment.	25
Revision	10
Total	120

B. Teaching Method: Self Independent Study, Tutorial and Online Participation

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, student will be expected to:

1. Explain the rules governing the proper use of grammar in writing and speaking;
2. Speak and write correct English using the proper conventions of grammar; and
3. Teach L2 learners the rules of English grammar.

COURSE SYNOPSIS

It is imperative that students who intend to teach the English language should have a good foundation on the grammar of the language. The course presents to students the forms, meanings and usage levels of basic structures in English Grammar. The course focuses on the rules of English, explanation of grammar points, common mistakes made by learners, punctuation, abbreviations, commonly confused words and spelling. English grammar is presented at sentence, clause, phrase, word level and grammar in relation to discourse level.

TEXT CHAPTERS

To enable you to achieve three objectives of the course, EFG331 is divided into 10 chapters. Specific objectives are stated at the start of each chapter indicating what you should be able to do after completing the chapter.

CHAPTER 1 Nouns and Articles

In this chapter you will learn about nouns. Nouns are things that you can talk about. In other words, nouns (from the Latin *nomen*, which means “name”) are words you used to name things.

CHAPTER 2 Pronouns

In English, once a noun as subject is introduced in the beginning of a paragraph, the rest of the paragraph can substitute the noun with what is called a pronoun (unless there are several subjects).

CHAPTER 3 Verbs and Tenses

In this chapter we are going to look at a specific part of speech that describes actions. It is known as verbs.

CHAPTER 4 Conjunctions

A conjunction is a word that joins two words, phrases, clauses and/or sentences together. Different books on grammar will categorise conjunctions differently, but for this chapter, we will learn four broad categories of conjunctions.

CHAPTER 5 Prepositions

In this chapter we are going to learn about prepositions. A preposition connects nouns and pronouns to other words in a sentence. The word or phrase that the preposition introduces is called the object of the preposition.

CHAPTER 6 Modifiers

Modifiers can come in a single word, a phrase or a clause. They tell us more us with more information about the subject matters which we are discussing. Using modifiers make our sentences more informative and varied.

CHAPTER 7 Parts of a Sentence

In this chapter, we are going to focus on the sentence instead, and what constitutes a sentence. There are basically two kinds of sentence parts: a phrase and a clause, and in this chapter we will consider both of them in detail.

CHAPTER 8 Types of Sentences

In this chapter, we are going to explore the different kinds of sentences used in the English language. You will see that a sentence does many different things, depending on the “type” it is, which is why it is important that you are familiar with the divergent ways in which the English sentence are written and used.

CHAPTER 9 Apostrophe

In this brief chapter, we will learn about the apostrophe. An apostrophe is one of the many punctuations in the English language, and in the next chapter, we will be looking at some of the most important ones.

CHAPTER 10 Punctuations

Punctuations are the smallest units in a sentence, but they play very important functions. Without them, we won’t know how to read a sentence! Punctuations are like signposts which help us know when to pause when reading, stop reading, and to know what the sentence is doing.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

There is no requirement of previous english subjects that the students are required to take before pursuing this course.

REFERENCES

- B.S. Azar (2001). Understanding and Using English Grammar. Pearson Education.
- Gaudart, H.; Hughes, R. & Michael, J. (2001). Towards Better English Grammar. Kuala Lumpur: Fajar Bakti.
- R.D. Huddleston and G. Pullum (2002). The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language. London: Cambridge University Press.
- L.S. Baugh (2005). Essentials of English Grammar. McGraw-Hill.

EVALUATION

Course evaluation consists of two components that are the ongoing evaluation and the final examination. In order to obtain a good score and grade in this course, students need to take each component of the course evaluation seriously.

- Ongoing Evaluation

- i) Assignment (1) : 20%
- ii) Assignment (2) : 40%

- Final Examination

(2-3 hour closed book examination held at the end of the semester)

Marks : 40%

Total Marks : 100%

Note: In order to pass the course (minimum grade C) the students need to obtain 25 marks from the final examination component (25%) (Requirements of the Malaysian Accreditation Body, MAB)

CHAPTER

1 Nouns and Articles

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Describe what a noun and an article are;
2. Identify the different categories of nouns;
3. Recognise the way nouns are used as a subject and an object of a sentence;
4. Relate the noun form to its correct verb form; and
5. Differentiate the types of articles and understand the way they are used.

INTRODUCTION



Source: <http://www.lyricsdownload.com/>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/sophiejunction/>

The words in blue are called nouns.

Nouns are things that you can talk about. Nouns (from the Latin *nomen*, which means “name”) are words you used to name things. Most nouns can be seen, felt, and tasted such as “chair”, “fur” and “burger”, while others are abstract, such as “happiness” or “jealousy”.

There are six categories of nouns as shown in Figure 1.1.

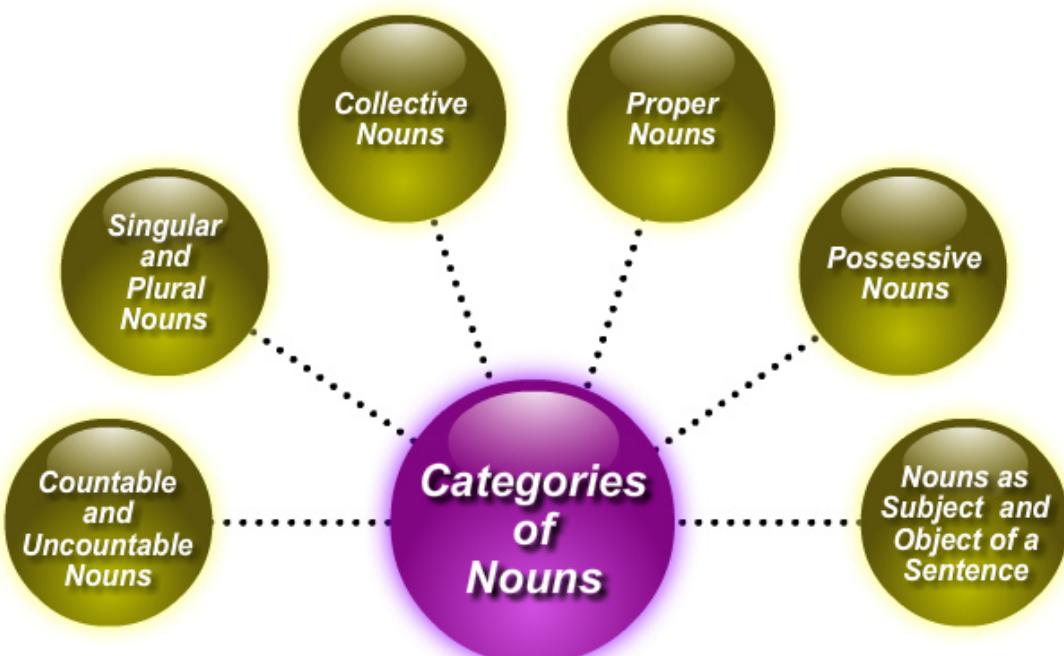


Figure 1.1: Six categories of nouns

1.1 NOUNS

In the course of this chapter, we will cover these various categories of nouns. Each of the nouns has specific rules which you need to learn about.

Nouns are also often used concurrently (or together) with articles (also called “determiners”). There are only three articles in the English language as shown in Figure 1.2.

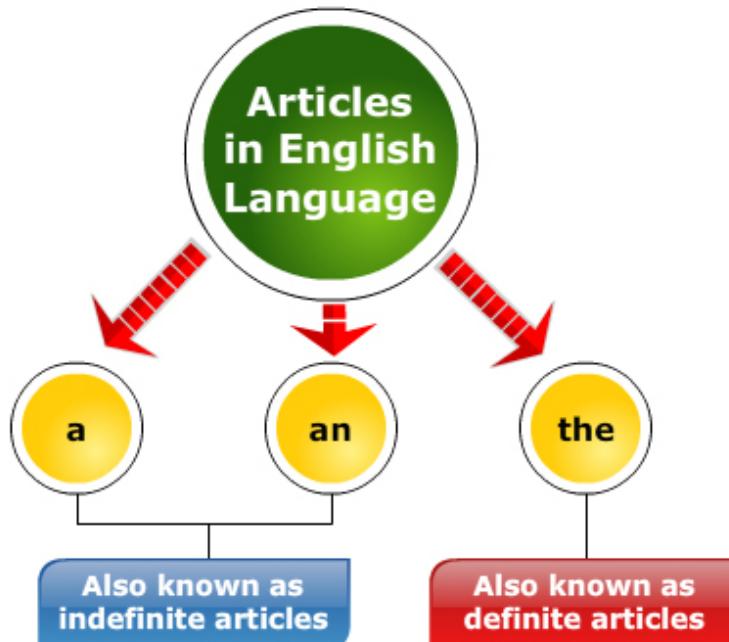


Figure 1.2: Three types of articles in English language

These three articles have specific uses and are often dependent on the noun which they describe.

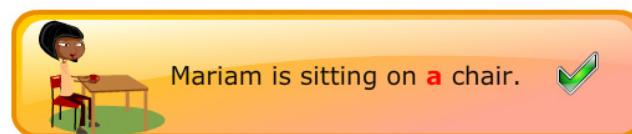
For example:



Mariam is sitting on chair. X

The sentence “Mariam is sitting on chair” is certainly incorrect; instead, the article “a” or “the” must appear before the noun “chair” for the sentence to be correct.

Hence,

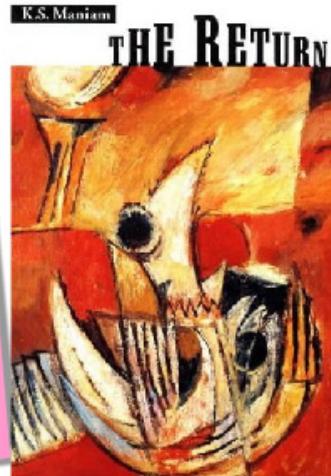


Mariam is sitting on **a** chair. ✓

1.1.1 Countable and Uncountable Nouns**(a) Countable Nouns**

A countable noun is a noun which you can count. Read the sentence below and see how many countable nouns you can identify?

I was already attending school when Periathai built that real house of hers. It had a large, cool hall, a small room and an old-fashioned, Indian cooking place. We, her grandchildren, enjoyed more the colorful entrance to this house. A double-pillared affair, it had strange stories carved on its timber faces.



Source: *The Return*, K.S. Maniam

It is easy to identify countable nouns. Just ask yourself if a particular thing can be counted or not.

Now look at the above passage again. Can you identify countable nouns?

I was already attending **school** when Periathai built that real **house** of hers. It had a large, cool **hall**, a small **room** and an old-fashioned, Indian cooking place. We, her **grandchildren**, enjoyed more the colorful **entrance** to this **house**. A double-pillared affair, it had strange **stories** carved on its timber **faces**.



Now, look around you and see how many countable nouns there are.

Figure 1.3 shows list of familiar countable nouns.

animal	finger	kitchen	ring
ball	fortune	lantern	root
basket	gallery	lamp	sun
blackboard	game	lemon	star
book	goalkeeper	license	towel
computer	gorilla	lover	tunnel
chalk	gutter	market	umbrella
candle	hat	monument	valley
doctor	healer	nest	vest
drum	house	occupation	watermelon
duster	hitchhiker	pocket	winter
evening	jacket	policeman	xylophone
eggplant	jaguar	pulley	yacht
farm	knife	queen	yak
feather	king	racket	zebra

Figure 1.3: List of countable nouns

(b) Uncountable Nouns

An uncountable noun is a noun that you cannot count. Usually, these nouns come in a number too vast that we have to talk about them as if they are a single unit.

Let's look at the following sentence.

The hair on your head.



Even you can actually count every single strand of hair, it will be impossible to do so.

Other nouns are uncountable because of the form they take. For example, “milk” is a noun, but you cannot count it.

Then there are nouns that express an abstract idea, like an emotion or an attitude, such as “happiness” or “hope”. Hence, these too belong to the category of uncountable nouns.

Figure 1.4 shows an example of uncountable nouns.

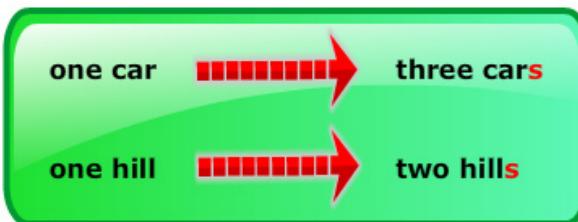
water	cooperation	rubbish	strength
courage	mischief	heat	illness

Figure 1.4: Examples of uncountable nouns

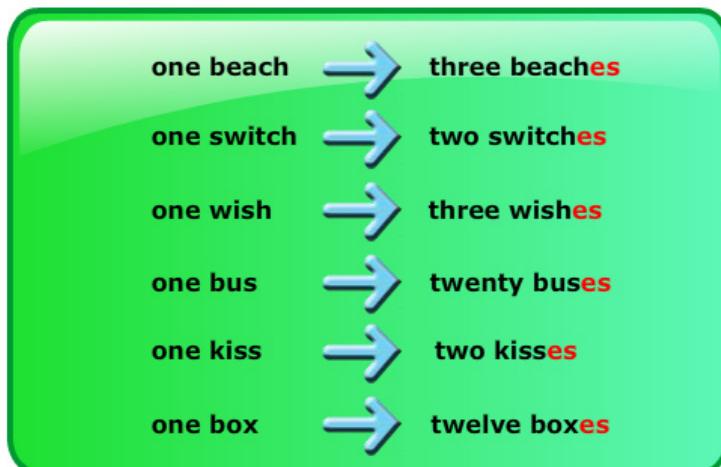
1.1.2 Singular and Plural Nouns

Because most nouns are countable, you will need to differentiate when talking about a noun in the singular and in the plural forms.

The most common way to do this is to add “s” to a noun to change it from a singular to a plural. Look at the examples below:



Sometimes however you need to add “es”. This happens when the noun ends in “ch”, “sh”, “s”, “ss” and “x”. Look at the examples below:



There are some complications with some nouns however. They occur in the following situations.

(a) Nouns Ending with “y”

Consider the following two nouns:



Both words end with the letter “y”, but while all it takes is to add “s” to make day into a plural noun (“days”), you need to add “es” but also change the “y” into “ies”

city	library	quarry	boy	play
------	---------	--------	-----	------

In plural form, they will look like this:

cities	libraries	quarries	boys	plays
--------	-----------	----------	------	-------

If the letter before the last “y” is a vowel (**a, e, i, o or u**), then just adding an “s” is enough.

Or else?

If the letter before the last “y” is not a vowel, then the “y” must be changed to an “i” and “es” must be added to signal the plural form of the noun.



ACTIVITY Consider the following nouns. How will you turn them into the plural

- party
- mystery
- highway
- valley
- lady
- story

(b) Nouns Ending with “o”

Nouns ending with “o” pose another complication. Sometimes, the plural is “oes”; sometimes it is just “os”; and then there are nouns which can take both “oes” and “os” forms.

Here are the examples of nouns which use “os” for their plural form:

pianos | **photos** | **radios** | **zoos** | **tornados**

Nouns which use “oes” for their plural form include:

mangoes | **buffaloes** | **heroes** | **tomatoes** | **echoes**

Plural nouns that can take both “oes” and “os” forms include:

mosquito | **buffalo** | **torpedo** | **volcano**

There are no rules to decide if a noun ending with “o” should take the “oes” or “os” (or both) form in its plural state. The best is to consult a good dictionary.

(c) Nouns Ending with “f” or “fe”

Some nouns ending with “f” or “fe” just require an “s” to change them into the plural form.

cafes | **cliffs** | **roofs** | **briefs** | **gulfs**

Some such nouns however require that the “f” be changed into “v” and adding an “es” to make them into the plural form.

Figure 1.5 shows a list of words in which the “f” changes into “v”.

calf	→	calves	scarf	→	scarves
shelf	→	shelves	dwarf	→	dwarves
knife	→	knives	thief	→	thieves
leaf	→	leaves	wolf	→	wolves

Figure 1.5: Examples of nouns which the “f” changes into “v”

Figure 1.6 shows some nouns with special endings which require a change to their sound and spelling when in the plural form.

child	→	children	ox	→	oxen
foot	→	feet	louse	→	lice
man	→	men	mouse	→	mice
woman	→	women	datum	→	data
tooth	→	teeth	octopus	→	octopi
goose	→	geese	hippopotamus	→	hippopotami

Figure 1.6: Examples of nouns with special endings

There are nouns which remain the same either in its singular or plural form. Figure 1.7 shows examples of the nouns which remain the same.

deer	sheep	fruit	fish
grapefruit	shellfish	swine	cod

Figure 1.7: Examples of nouns which remain the same in the plural

There are nouns with no plural forms at all. Figure 1.8 shows the examples of the nouns with no plural forms at all.

advice	clothing	knowledge	news
aircraft	equipment	laughter	traffic
apparatus	furniture	luggage	stuff
audience	information	machinery	

Figure 1.8: Examples of the nouns with no plural form

1.1.3 Collective Nouns

There are some nouns which come in groups. Figure 1.9 shows examples of collective nouns which come in groups.

army	cohort	government	navy
audience	fleet	group	range
class	flock	herd	staff
company	gang	list	swarm

Figure 1.9: Examples of collective nouns which come in groups

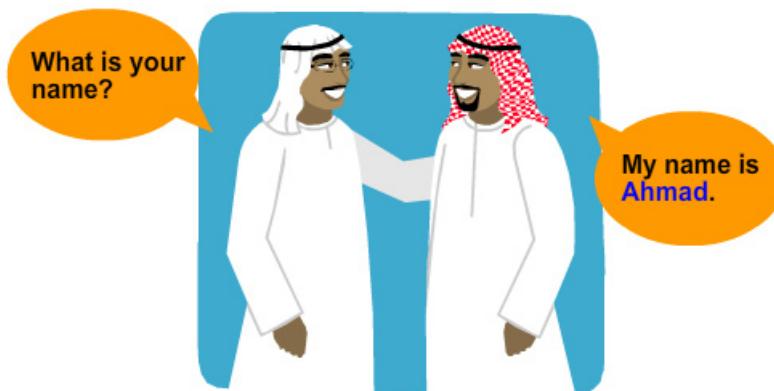
Figure 1.10 shows some sentences using collective nouns. The words in blue are the collective nouns.



Figure 1.10: Examples of sentences using collective nouns

1.1.4 Proper Nouns

Proper nouns are very easy to identify. Proper nouns usually begin with capital letters, and there can only be one representation of each proper noun.



Your name is a proper noun, because the first letter of names is capitalised, and there is only one of you in the whole world.



Think of some things which there can only be one in the world. You will realise that they are all proper nouns. For example:

- Malaysia (name of a country or a place)
- Mr./Dato'/Datuk/Dr. (official titles)
- Tan Chong Motors (name of a business corporation)
- Proton Saga (name of a brand)
- Vasantha Kumari (name of a person)
- Asia e-University (name of a university or institution)
- Cinderella (title of a story)
- The Simpsons (title of a television show)
- Maskulin (title of a local magazine)

In the case of some titles however (usually prepositions and conjunctions), not all words should be capitalised.

For example:

Pride and Prejudice

The Story of My Life

1.1.5

Possesive Nouns (Showing Possession with Nouns)

A possessive noun is a noun that shows ownership. In other words, the noun tells us who or what owns something.

The rules to showing possessive nouns are simple.



You add an apostrophe and "s" ('s) to form the possessive of most singular nouns.

Example:

It was a girl's dress that was found in the crime scene.



Rule 2

You add an apostrophe (') to form the possessive of plural nouns that end with "s".

Example:

*The rained halted the **boys'** football game.*



Rule 3

You add an apostrophe and "s" ('s) to form the possessive of plural nouns that do not end with "s".

Example:

*The **children's** playground was close for renovations yesterday.*

Exception!

If the noun is singular and ends with an "s", either add 's or only the apostrophe ('). **NOT BOTH.**

Example:

- The bus's engine stopped. (or)
- The bus' engine stopped.

(a) Joint Ownership

The following examples show possession by joint ownership:





John and James have a ball.



John and James's ball.

To show ownership of two or more objects by two or more different entities, you must indicate ownership in the following way:



Siti has a school bag. Halimah also has a school bag.



Siti's and Halimah's school bags.



My uncle has a house. My auntie also has a house.



My uncle's and aunty's houses.



Underline the noun in each sentence that should be possessive. Then write it correctly after the sentence. The first two have been done for you.

Note: Some of the sentences may have more than one answer.

- My family's little car had problem going up the hill.
- My family's little car had problem going up the hill.

- A hardworking person effort will be rewarded.
- A hardworking person's effort will be rewarded.

1. Mrs. Chongs plants are always beautiful to behold.
2. The class teacher is quite pretty.
3. That dog trainer is very experienced.
4. Shamsul passport was lost when he was on holiday in Singapore.
5. The ladies dressing room was flooded early this morning.
6. Your brother attitude got him into trouble last night.
7. I didn't realise that I was eating your dog favourite can food!
8. The villagers custom requires that they pray at the temple weekly.
9. A dinosaur brain is said to be as large as an apple.
10. The audience expectation did not meet the actor ability.
11. Mr. and Mrs. Tan are very proud of John excellent results.
12. All the king men couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again.
13. The two brothers secret was later discovered by their friend.

1.6.1

Nouns as Subject and Object of a Sentence

A noun can appear as either a subject or an object of a sentence.

Subject is the person or thing who is doing something.

Let's look at the examples of nouns as subjects of sentences:



Encik Ahmad bought a house.



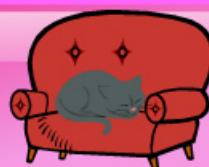
The cat slept on the sofa.

An object is the person or thing that something is being done to.

Now, look at the examples of nouns as objects of the sentences:



Encik Ahmad bought a **house**.



The cat slept on the **sofa**.

1.2 NOUN-VERB AGREEMENT

Now we come to another important aspect about nouns which you must learn – their relationship with verbs (see Chapter 3 for more on verbs).

Verbs are words which suggest action, and almost all proper sentences in English require at least one noun (or pronoun, see Chapter 2) and one verb to work. Therefore, it is important that you must use the correct verb with the different nouns (or pronouns).

Let's revisit the various categories of nouns and see how they function with the correct verb.

1.2.1 Countable Nouns

A countable noun can appear in both singular and plural forms.

Let us now consider the word tiger (singular) and tigers (plural) as the subject of the following sentence.

The *tiger/tigers* _____ in the jungle.

The action word, or verb will be used, is “roam”. But the form of the verb must suit, or agree with, the noun form that appears before it. Thus, it must appear like this:



The *tiger* *roams* in the jungle.



The *tigers* *roam* in the jungle.

Notice that tiger in the singular form uses the verb roams (with an “s”) while tiger in the plural form (tigers) uses the verb roam (without an “s”).

This is true for all noun and verb agreements in the present tense.

Here are some general rules to consider.

Rule 1

Add "s" or "es" to the base form of the verb when the noun is singular. The rules of spelling are similar to those for plural nouns.

For example:

A baby **cries**.
Babies cry.

The dog **bites** the bone.
The **dogs** bite the bone.

The woman **washes** the clothes by the river.
The **women** wash the clothes by the river.

Rule 2

Even when the noun and the verb are separated by a modifier, you must always remember that it is the noun form which will determine the verb form.

Look at the examples below:

The **boys** usually **come** home late for dinner.

Shamsul often **worries** about his studies.

Men wearing white shirts sometimes **visit** the old man in the middle of the night.

Rule 3

In the case when two count nouns appear in the sentence as the subject, then the verb must take the plural form (without "s").

For example:

Sheila and Sharon **work** at the university.

There are some trams and buses that **go** to the village during the weekend.



Fill in the blanks below using the correct verb form provided in the brackets at the end of each sentence.

Note: For some sentence, more than one verb form may be possible.

1. The animals _____ out when it gets dark in the jungle. (come)
2. The man _____ soundly every night after a cup of hot tea. (sleep)
3. Every Sunday morning, the women _____ to the market to buy vegetables. (go)
4. Mary and Malina always _____ in class during lesson. (talk)
5. The workmen _____ work punctually at 9 a.m. every day. (start)
6. Rashid usually _____ his piano in the afternoon when he _____ from school. (practice, return)
7. My son often _____ the old folks home during Christmas. (visit)
8. Heavy rains _____ a landslide, so it is better not to live near a hill. (cause)

There are 5 kinds of “to be” verbs as shown in Figure 1.11.



Figure 1.11: Five kinds of “to be” verb

This verb must also change to “agree” with the count noun that comes before it.

The rules are quite simple:

1

In the present tense, we use **is** when the count noun is singular and **are** when it is plural. For example:

The computer **is** behaving strangely.

The computers **are** behaving strangely.

2

In the past tense, we use **was** when the count noun is singular and **were** when it is plural. For example:

The car **was** stalled midway between Rawang and Kepong.

The cars **were** stalled midway between Rawang and Kepong.



Fill in the blanks with is, are, was or were.

Note: Some sentence may have more than one answer.

1. The monkeys _____ out playing in the field.
2. The neighbour's dog _____ barking very loudly last night.
3. The food served in that restaurant _____ very delicious.
4. Students _____ encouraged to study hard for the upcoming examination.
5. The children _____ very quiet at the concert yesterday.
6. The letter that _____ sent to him last week hasn't arrived yet.
7. Joe and Mariam _____ getting married tomorrow.
8. The school bus _____ constantly late last week due to traffic jams.

1.2.2

Uncountable Nouns

Although uncountable nouns are nouns that cannot be counted, in the case of noun-verb agreement, we treat them as though they are singular nouns.

For example:

Hair becomes white as we grow older.



Happiness comes when we learn to be contented with what we have.



There are some non-count nouns that look like count nouns because they end with an “s”. You must be cautious of such nouns.

Remember: They also take the singular verb.

Here are some examples:

Mathematics teaches us that numbers matter.



Aerobics helps me to stay in shape.



News travels fast in a small village.



In the case of “to be” verbs, use is if the sentence is in the present tense and was if the sentence is in the past tense.

1.2.3 Collective Nouns

When talking about a collective noun, you can use either a singular or plural verb. This will depend on how you treat the noun.

If you treat the noun as a single unit, then you will use the singular verb.

For example:

The team is thinking of participating in the tournament.

Everyone in the team is of the same view.



The team are unsure whether or not to participate in the tournament.

Some members of the team feel they should, while others do not.

1.2.4 Proper Nouns

We consider proper nouns to be countable nouns.

If there is **only one proper noun** as subject in the sentence, we use the **singular verb**.

If there are **two proper nouns** as subject in the sentence, we use the **plural verb**.

For example:

Tan Chong Motors announces a good profit for the year 2008.

Sheila and Sharon work at the university.



1.3**ARTICLES**

There are only three articles in the English language: “a”, “an” and “the”. “A” and “an” are also known as indefinite articles while “the” is a definite article.



In some books on grammar, articles are classed under “determiners”.

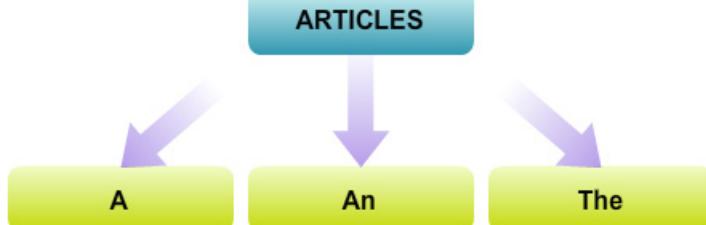


Figure 1.12: Articles

1.3.1 Definite Article (“The”)

We use the definite article if you want to talk about something definite or specific.

For example:



When we say “the car”, you are talking about a specific car, not just any car. ‘The’ can be used together with most nouns.

In the case of proper nouns, we rarely use an article.

For example:



But if you want to stress a particular proper noun, you can add “the” in front of it.

Example:



1.3.2 Indefinite Article ("a" and "an")

When we are talking about something that is not specific, we use the indefinite article.

For example:

I saw an eagle yesterday.



You are not talking about a specific eagle, but merely one eagle out of many.

You use “an” when the noun starts with a vowel (“a”, “e”, “i”, “o” or “u”, but there are exceptions) and “a” for everything else.

Figure 1.13 shows examples of nouns that start with “a” and “an”.



Figure 1.13: Examples of nouns starting with “a” and “an”

However, there are some exceptions to the rule.

1

If the noun starts with a vowel but the first sound of the word is actually a “y” OR “w” sound, then we use “a”.

For example:

a university; a European holiday; a one-eyed monster

2

There are nouns which start with “h” that takes the article “an” rather than “a”.

For example:

an honest man; an hour



If you are unsure if a noun that starts with “h” should take “an” or “a”, consult a dictionary.

1.3.3 Rules for Using Articles

To help you decide when “the” or “an/a” are used, here are some simple rules to follow.

Rule 1

Use “the” when talking or writing about something definite/particular.

For example, if you only take one bus to school everyday, you say:

The bus I take everyday.



But if you have to take several buses to school everyday because you live very far away, you could say:

1. **A** bus I take everyday.

2. **The** bus I take from my house to the PJ station.

**Rule 2**

You can also use “the” if you are sure that the person you are addressing knows about the thing you are talking about.

For example, if you are writing a letter to friend and you state:

Lately, **the** cat has been giving me a lot of problems.



It is because you are sure that your friend knows about the cat you are talking about. If your friend doesn’t know, you will have to tell him about it first. After you have introduced the cat to your friend, then you may use “the” subsequently to talk about the cat.

Last year, my neighbour gave me **a** cat for my birthday. But lately, **the** cat has been giving me a lot of problems.

**Rule 3**

There are nouns which refer to only one particular thing.

You should always use “the” when referring to them.

For example:

The Eiffel Tower of Paris.



Have you read the edition of **The** Star today?



Margaret Thatcher was once known as **The** Lady with the Iron Fist.

**Rule 4**

You also use “the” when you are talking about a person, thing or group that belongs specifically to a particular location

For example:

You will say:

"I am going to **the** market now"



when the place you live has only one market and everyone knows exactly what you are talking about.

Rule 5

Use "the" to refer to a thing that has only one of its kind in the world.

For example:



the moon



the sun



the earth

Rule 6

Use "the" when referring to a count noun in general.

For example:

The doctor will be here soon.



According to **the** law, you cannot jump a red light.

Rule 7

We also use "the" before superlatives.

For example:

Mahmod is **the** tallest man in the village.



She goes to **the** most expensive school in the country.



Neil Armstrong was **the** first man in the moon.



I was **the** last person to see him before he left the house.

**Rule 8**

Articles are usually used with countable nouns. There are, however, instances when you need to use an article when referring to uncountable nouns.

For example:

Learning French was part of **the** education I obtained in my country.



The milk in the fridge has gone bad.

According to **the** history of China, The Great Wall was built to protect the country from enemies.

**Rule 9**

Use "an" and "a" when talking about something that is not specific.

Rule 10

Use "an" and "a" when talking about something for the first time (see Rule 2).

Rule 11

You can use the indefinite article with any count noun in the singular form.

Rule 12

"A" and "an" are also used in expressions of price, number, speed and ratio.

For example:



The car was going at 80 km **a** hour.



Petrol cost RM2.50 **a** liter.



The prescribed dose for my medicine is two teaspoonfuls **a** day to be taken in the morning.

Rule 13

As mentioned, proper nouns do not often take an article. But we can use an indefinite article if we do not know the identity of a person.

For example:



A Mr. Tan came by this morning looking for you.



John went out with a Henry to catch a movie.

1.3.4 No Articles

The following situations do not require articles. But pay attention to exceptions.



Names of places (towns, countries).

Example:

I was born in Malaysia.



We do use an article when these are used as adjectives (see Chapter 6).

Example: I am a Malaysian citizen.

2

We do not use an article to indicate meals and certain types of diseases.

Examples:

My sister is down with measles.



I will have dinner at the restaurant near my house.

3

We usually do not require an article before places like prisons, hospitals, markets, etc.

Examples:

He was sent to prison for robbing a bank.



Aminah was taken to hospital after she fell down from the stairs.

SUMMARY

1. In this chapter, we learned the importance of nouns and articles in English.
2. Nouns are the most common words we use everyday, and they are probably some of the first words we learned when we were very young.
3. There are only three articles in English, and each of them has specific uses: A, An, The.
4. It is therefore important that you know the difference between the various nouns categories, and what a definite article and an indefinite article are.

KEY TERMS

Nouns

Definite articles

Indefinite articles

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