

Articles

a, an, the or no article

a / an

Everybody has **a** brain.

Harry is **a** good student.

Can I have **an** apple?

I've got **a** Maths exam tomorrow.

We've got **an** exam next week.



the

The bus is always late.

I thought **the** History test was easy.

Can I have **the** last apple?

Yesterday I went to **the** park.

You need to study before **the** History exam on Friday.



No article

You should drink more **water**.

Do you like playing **football**?

Those **apples** are really sweet.

Lily really enjoys **Geography** lessons.

How many **exams** have you got?



Language in action



I really enjoy school, but I don't enjoy **exams**. Every year we have **exams** at the end of term. This week, I've got **a** Science exam and next week I've got **an** art exhibition and **a** Maths exam. **The** Science exam will be easy, but **the** Maths exam will be difficult because I'm not good at **Maths**. I'm looking forward to next month when I can relax and have **a** good time with my friends!

GET IT RIGHT!

- Is there ~~the~~ **a** university in your town? *(We don't know the university.)*
- I like ~~the~~ **Maths**, but I don't like ~~the~~ **English**.

(We're talking about Maths and English in general.)

- I've got ~~the~~ **an** idea. Let's do our homework. *(We don't know what the idea is.)*
- I had **a** great time at Drama club.

(We use an article in some fixed expressions, e.g to have a great time, to have a terrible time etc.)

Can you remember the rules?

a/an

We use *a* or *an* with singular countable nouns:

- when the listener/reader doesn't know exactly which thing we are talking about.
- when we talk about something for the first time in a conversation.

*You can have **an** apple or **a** banana.*

*Look! There's **a** horse in the garden.*

the

- We use *the* before a noun when it is clear which thing(s) or person/people we are talking about.

The apples in this pie are from our garden.

A: Look! There's a horse in the garden.

B: Oh yes! The horse is eating our apples.

No article

- We use no article before plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns, when we are talking about things in general.

Bananas are sweeter than apples. *Chocolate* isn't good for you.

Speaking

What did one Maths book say to the other?
'I've got — problems.'

What sort of animals do you have
 to watch out for in — exams?
— Cheetahs.

Teacher: Where are the Andes?
Student: At the end of your wristies!

Why did the ant come top
 of the class in — Maths?
*Because he was an
 account-ant.*

What subject did the
 snake get an A in?
 Hiss-story!

Teacher: Who broke the
 window?

Lucy: It was Mia's fault – I
 threw a banana at her
 head and she moved!

Quiz time

- 1 The adult brain weighs nearly ~~3.5kg~~. 1.5kg
- 2 ~~Spanish~~ and Arabic are the hardest languages to learn. Chinese
- 3 Mathematical symbols were invented in the 16th century. Before this, they were written in words. ✓
- 4 Yawning is the body's way of cooling down an overheated brain. ✓
- 5 Children who learn ~~English~~ before the age of five have a different brain structure to children who learn only one language. two languages
- 6 Only ~~30.2%~~ of — people in the UK who take their driving test pass. 50.2%
- 7 A brain produces enough energy to light a bulb. ✓
- 8 There are about ~~3,000~~ languages in the world. 7,000 languages

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