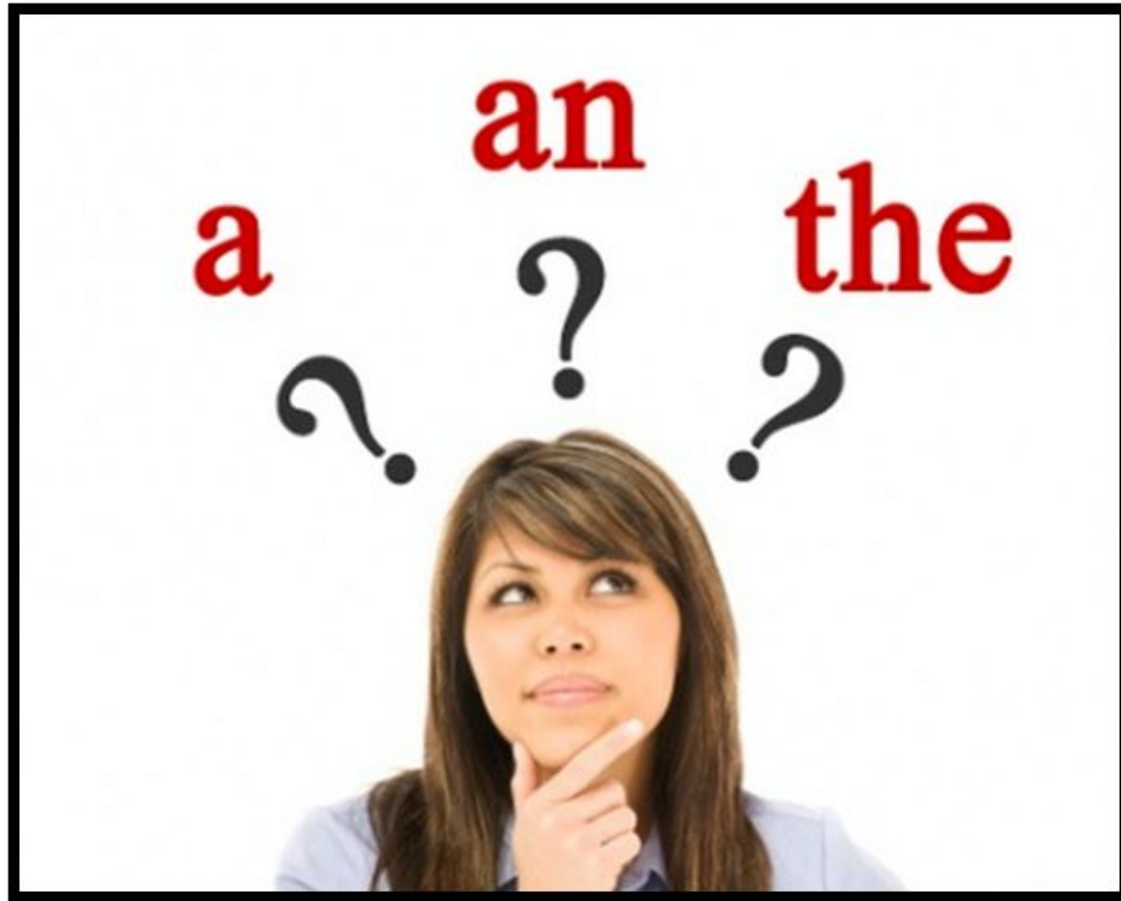


Use of Articles



There are three articles in English:

- definite - the
- two indefinite - a/an
- «zero» article

- The articles may stand immediately before a noun:
she is an artist
- The articles may be separated from the noun with adverb or adjective:
a beautiful young woman

Indefinite

- a + singular noun beginning with a consonant:
a reaction
- an+ singular noun beginning with a vowel: an
act
- a + singular noun beginning with a consonant
sound (even though it may start with a vowel
letter): a uniform (same sound as in young or
yesterday)

- A/an are used with nouns only ***in the singular in the following cases:***

1. if a subject or **a person mentioned for the first time:**

Give me a pen (any)

2. if there is **a descriptive adjective before a noun:**

a loud bang

3. English requires the presence of indefinite articles **to indicate membership:**

- ***religion:*** Maria Ramirez is a Roman Catholic from the NY archdiocese.
- ***profession:*** I am a lawyer.
- ***nation:*** Mr. Brown is **an** Englishman who immigrated to this country in 1959.

4. with nouns in constructions: **there is/ this is/ that is/ it is**:

This is a computer. There is a rose in the vase

5. with nouns in combination with the adjective **“such”**:

such a day, such a car etc.

6. **In exclamations**, before countable nouns in the singular after words: **what, such, rather, quite, as**:

What a hot day! Such a pity!

7. With nouns preceded by the word **“half”**:

half an hour, half a day etc.

8. Words “one and ones” and all phrases beginning with these words (such as one-sided, once-over):
a one-parent family, a one-way trip
9. If abbreviations begin with the letters: F, H, L, M, N, R, S or X, and ***the pronunciation*** of these letters starts with a vowel sound:
an MBA degree, an FBI agent etc.
10. With some words and phrases indicating the number of: a couple, a dozen, a hundred, a great deal of
11. in phrases used to express price, speed, ratio:
five pence a kilo, kilometres an hour

Always use me with these
word combinations:



to be in a hurry



to be at a loss



to be in a rage



to have a headache



to have a toothache



in a loud voice



in a low voice



in a whisper



it's a pity



it's a shame



it's a pleasure

Definite

- English requires the use of the definite article THE before singular and plural nouns to indicate specific reference.
- Compare: A dog bit the plaintiff. (any dog; either you do not need to specify which dog you are referring to or you simply don't know)

vs.

The dog bit the plaintiff. (a specific dog; both you and your reader/listener know which dog you are referring to)

1. If an object or phenomenon has a **description**:
the image he projects does not favor his case
2. If an object or person is mentioned **in the context before**:

This is a house. The house is very old.

3. Before nouns that are **one of a kind**:
the sun, the world, the sky
4. In combination with adjectives **in the superlative degree**:
the best friend, the longest trip etc.

5. In combination with **ordinal numerals**:
the first day, the second chance etc.
6. Before nouns + words: **same, very, only, next, last**:
Read the same text. You are the very man I am
looking for.
7. With nouns denoting names of **waterfalls, Straits, mountain ranges, groups of Islands, cardinal directions, rivers, seas, oceans, deserts**:
the Thames, the Atlantic Ocean, the Alps, the Bermudas, the English Channel, the Gulf Stream, the Suez Canal, the Niagara Falls, in the north; in the south; in the east; in the west, The Sahara Desert
etc.

8. **With country names** consisting of several words, including the following: **Federation, Republic, Union, state, Kingdom:**

the German Federal Republic, the USA, the UK etc.

9. With nouns denoting names of **hotels, theaters, museums, ships:**

the Hilton, the Covent Garden, the Titanic, the Bolshoy Theatre etc

10. With nouns denoting names of **newspapers:**

the Financial Times, the Daily Mail etc.

11. In the structure of stable combinations:

to play the piano/ the violin / the guitar / the cello
etc., to tell the truth, to go to the cinema/ theatre,
to listen to the radio, the other way

12. **With surnames**, if a surname is plural and refers to
the entire family:

the Smiths, the Browns etc.



Always use me with these
word combinations:



to tell (speak) **the** truth



on **the** one hand



on **the** other hand



to play **the** violin
(**the** piano)



to read in **the** original



it's out of **the** question



in **the** morning



in **the** afternoon
in **the** day-time



in **the** evening

Zero article

1. Usually before **a noun in the plural** (before a noun in the singular indefinite article can be consumed):

Children usually go to school at the age of 6

2. Before **names** and before nouns designating **titles**:

Professor N., General B., Queen Y

3. Before names of **sciences, subjects, languages**:

He studies history and English

4. Before **abstract** nouns:

I like music

5. Before **uncountable nouns** for use in their neutral, shared value: advice, information, news, furniture, tea, coffee etc. Such words as: **some, any, a little, a lot of, a piece of** etc. are often used in front of them:

I'll give you a piece of advice

6. Before nouns, followed by the **cardinal numbers** denoting the number:

Open page 12. We live in flat 27

7. In **sustained phrases and expressions**:

by land, by sea, by car, by heart, in debt, at night, in trouble, by dinner, in time, on sale, from time to time

8. Before words **church, school, college, hospital, prison, work, sea, bed, home** if these words are used for their intended purpose:

We go to church to pray

9. Before nouns denoting **days of the week**:

Monday, Sunday

10. Names of **streets and squares**:

Red Square, Trafalgar Square, Regent Street etc.

11. With nouns in combination with the prepositions
“**fromto, from till**”:

from beginning to end, from north to south, from
nothing till everything

THE USE OF ARTICLES WITH PROPER NOUNS

- **Do's**
- geographical areas (the South, the Middle East, the Far West)
- names of seas, oceans and rivers (the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, the Hudson)
- gulfs, peninsulas, forests, and deserts (the Persian Gulf, the Valdez Peninsula, the Black Forest, the Sahara)
- points on the globe (the Capricorn, the South Pole)

- **Don'ts**
- names of countries (Argentina, Ireland, Iraq), but the US, the Netherlands, the Gambia, the Bahamas
- names of continents (America, Africa)
- names of states, towns or cities (Illinois, Edison, Philadelphia)

1. I'd like ... chicken sandwich and ... glass of ... mineral water.
2. Would you like ... banana or ... strawberries?
3. She always has ... apple, ... toast and ... cup of ... coffee for ... breakfast.
4. The fly is on ... ceiling in ... kitchen.
5. My mother is ... accountant and my father is ... lawyer. They work in ... same company in ... centre of ... our town
6. How much are ... her Italian lessons? – Ten dollars ... hour.

7. I come to ... work by ... bus. Today ... bus was a bit late.
8. ... Jack is ... youngest but ... cleverest boy at ... school.
9. It rained, so I stayed at ... home in ... evening. But today ... sun is shining brightly in ... sky.
10. On ... Monday ... kids were tired and they went to ... bed very early.
11. My wife is ... best woman in ... world and I'm ... happiest husband!
12. They are having ... test on ... third of December.
13. What ... beautiful painting! ... artist is such ... talented person!

14. ... Cairo is ... capital of ... Egypt
15. It was so picturesque in ... Crimea ... last summer
16. ... London stands on ... Thames.
17. I had ... my holiday in ... northern Italy ... last year but I'm going to cross ... Atlantic ocean and visit ... USA ... next year.
18. ... Moon moves round ... Earth.
19. ... Great Patriotic war started in 1941.
20. ... Volga is ... longest river in ... Russia.
21. ... Ukraine and ... Turkey are separated by ... Black sea.
22. My friend usually goes to ... Alps in ... spring by ... plane.
23. ... Urals are lower than ... Caucasus.
24. ... Great Britain is situated on ... two large islands.

1. a, a, -
2. a, -
3. an, a, a, -, -
4. the, the
5. an, a, the, the, -
6. -, an
7. -, -, the
8. -, the, the, -
9. -, the, the, the
0. -, the, -
1. the, the, the
2. a, the
3. a, the, a

- Just to confirm (1) _____ rushed phone conversation we had today, I've been served with (2) _____ complaint from (3) _____ Small Claims Part of (4) _____ Civil Court brought by (5) _____ shopper against Loman's for (6) _____ breach of (7) _____ contract on (8) _____ theory that she came to our main branch last month in (9) _____ response to (10) _____ ad for (11) _____ leather coats and that we "failed to have (12) _____ merchandise to sell at (13) _____ advertised price." We had advertised these coats in one of our recent circulars. (14) _____ text of (15) _____ advertisement is part of (16) _____ FAX I sent previously to your office.

Just to confirm (1) **the** rushed phone conversation we had today, I've been served with (2) **a** complaint from (3) **the** Small Claims Part of (4) **0** Civil Court brought by (5) **a** shopper against Loman's for (6) **a** breach of (7) **0** contract on (8) **the** theory that she came to our main branch last month in (9) **0** response to (10) **an** ad for (11) **0** leather coats and that we "failed to have (12) **the** merchandise to sell at (13) **the** advertised price." We had advertised these coats in one of our recent circulars. (14) **The** text of (15) **the** advertisement is part of (16) **the** FAX I sent previously to your office

Thank you!