



National Research
**Tomsk
State
University**

**Realization of the project
"Development of foreign language
competence of TSU students" 2016-2018**

ARTICLES

- Indefinite article
- Definite article



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INDEFINITE ARTICLES

A & AN

A is used before nouns which begin with
Consonants

- **A book, a girl, a sweet**

Also A is used before U and EU

- **A university, a European city**

AN is used before nouns which begin with
vowels

- **An apple, an interesting film**

AN is used before H when the sound is silent

- **An hour**



A & THE

Mary: I bought a CD player and a TV yesterday.

Fred: Was the CD player expensive?

A & AN are used when we mention smth **for the first time**

THE is used when we mention a person or a thing **again**



SPECIAL USES OF A & AN

We use A, AN with prices, frequency and speeds

- It costs \$2 a litre
- You should drink about 2 litres of water a day
- You're driving at 90 miles an hour

We use A, AN with professions

- I'm a hairdresser; she's a doctor



SPECIAL USES OF THE

When there is **only one** of something

- **The sun, the Earth, the world, the Internet etc**
- **Is she in the kitchen? Can you turn off the TV?**

When a singular noun (name) refers to a group

- **The police, the government, the Browns**

With superlatives

- **The best, the most interesting**



SPECIAL USES OF THE

With **the first, the second** etc

- **A second means “another, one more”**

With adjectives that refer to groups

- **The rich, the poor**

With nationalities

- **The Chinese**

With musical instruments

- **I play the violin**



ZERO ARTICLE

When we talk in general with uncount.nouns or with plural nouns

- **Life was more difficult for our grandparents**
- **People are often afraid of taking risks.**

Common expressions:

- **At home, in/to hospital, in/to prison, at/school, at/to university, at/to work**

With seasons

- **I like summer a lot.**



ZERO ARTICLE

With names of meals

- **When did you have lunch?**

With names of languages without the word “language”

- **She knows English, BUT she knows the English language**

With names of months and days

- **My Birthday is in April.**
- **I work on Monday.**



GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Geographical names are used without articles

- **England, France, Tomsk, Moskow**

Words *republic, union, kingdom & states* are used with the definite article

- **the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic**

Names of *oceans, seas & rivers* are used with the definite article

- **the Pacific Ocean, the Black Sea**



GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Names of lakes without the word “lake” go with no article

■ **Lake Ontario OR the Ontario**

Names of mountain chains go with the definite article

■ **The Urals, the Alps**

Names of mountain peaks go with no article

■ **Elbrus, Everest**



GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Names of groups of islands are used with the definite article

- **The Bermudas**

Names of singular islands are used with no article

- **Madagascar**

Names of streets and squares are used without articles

- **Oxford Street, Trafalgar Square**



GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The names of the following towns, countries & cities are used with the definite article:

- **The Hague, the Netherlands, the West Indies, the Ruhr, the Riviera, the Crimea, the Ukraine, the Caucasus, the Congo, the Lebanon**

Cardinal points are used with definite article

- **the North, the South, the West, the East**
- **BUT form East to West & from North to South**





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