



Pearson

Grammar

A2+

articles

Recommended for:

Gold Experience

Focus

High Note

2019



We use articles before nouns, e.g. people, places, objects or ideas. They tell us something about the noun.

Let's look at:

1. When to use *a* or *an*.
2. When to use *the*.
3. When to use a noun without an article.



When do we use
articles?

Function: articles

1 The sun is shining! Let's go for a walk.

2 John plays the piano really well.

There's no food in the fridge.
We need to go to the supermarket.

3 My French teacher also speaks Italian and German.

4 I went to see a band yesterday. It's the band I told you about. They're really good!

7 Anne Marie is a journalist. She works for a newspaper.

8 Canada is a beautiful country. It has lots of lakes and mountains.

with most countries
with jobs
when there is only one of something
when it is clear which one we are talking about
with musical instruments
with languages

the first time we talk about something
the second time we talk about something

with plural, countable nouns to talk about something in general

ten

Look at these sentences. How many articles are there?

Now look at the articles (and nouns without articles) that are highlighted. Match them with the uses.



Form and function: articles

John plays the piano really well.

There's no food in the fridge. We need to go to the supermarket.

I went to see a band yesterday. It's the band I told you about. They're really good!



Canada is a beautiful country. It has lots of lakes and mountains.

My French teacher also speaks Italian and German.

Anne Marie is a journalist. She works for a newspaper.

Complete the table with the correct articles.

The sun is shining! Let's go for a walk.

Now listen to how your teacher pronounces these words.

Be careful! Some countries do have articles (e.g. *the USA*, *the UK*).

no article *an* *the* *a*

with singular nouns that start with a consonant (<i>b, c, d</i> , etc.)	with singular nouns that start with <i>a, e, i, o, u</i>	when there is only one of something	with plural countable nouns when talking in general
before <i>u</i> when we pronounce it /ju:/ (e.g. <i>a uniform</i>)	before <i>h</i> when it is silent (e.g. <i>an hour</i>)	when it is clear which person/thing we are talking about	with uncountable nouns when talking in general
with jobs		with musical instruments	with languages
the first time we talk about something		the second time we talk about something	with most countries

Let's practice!

Practice activities

Complete the gaps using *a/an, the* or no article.

1. When I was younger I wanted to be.....^afootballer, but now I'm learning.....^{the}guitar. I want to be in.....^aband.
[no article] [no article]
2. A: Do you like.....rock music? B: No, I prefer.....hip hop.
[no article]
3. Alex went on a school trip to.....Paris last year. He saw.....^{the}Eiffel Tower and visited.....^{the}Pompidou Centre.
[no article]
4. A: How can you speak.....English so well? B: I have a good friend from.....^{the}USA and we speak it all the time.
5. Do you want to have.....^{an}apple or^abanana with your lunch?
6. Amelia is.....^{an}honest person. We can trust her to look after.....^{the}house while we're on holiday.
7. Sarah is reading.....^abook. It's.....^{the}book she bought yesterday.

Explore grammar: quantity words



plural
countable

uncountable

positive



plural
countable

uncountable

negative

There aren't many **days** left until the holidays.

I need some **money** for the bus.

Would you like a few **sweets**?

We don't have any **milk**.

There are some fantastic **cafes** in my town.

I haven't got any **pets**.

The newspaper report didn't give a lot of **information**.

All **the food** was delicious.

Look at the words in **bold** in these sentences. Put the sentences in the correct circle (the first one is done for you).

Now look at the underlined words. Which one is used for small quantities?

a few

Explore grammar: quantity words



We use *how much* and *how many* in questions.

Now put the quantity words in the correct place in the table (the first one is done for you).

We don't use *the* after *all* when talking in general, e.g. *All birds lay eggs.*

in positive sentences	in negatives and questions	in negatives (and questions) with uncountable nouns	in negatives (and questions) with plural countable nouns	with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns
to talk about quantity when we don't know the number or amount				
with uncountable nouns to talk about a small quantity	with plural countable nouns to talk about a small quantity	in positive sentences to talk about a large quantity		

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>all</i> | <i>some</i> |
| <i>any</i> | <i>(how) much</i> |
| <i>a little</i> | <i>a lot of</i> |
| <i>(how many)</i> | <i>a few</i> |

We usually use *a lot of* (not *much/many*) in positive sentences with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns, e.g. *We've got a lot of fruit/biscuits.*