

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.*
- When to use a noun without an article.

When do we use articles?

Function: articles

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

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

John plays the piano really well.

There's no food in the fridge.

We need to go to the supermarket. 6

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

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

My French teacher also speaks Italian and German.

the first time we talk about something

the second time we talk about something

with plural, countable nouns to talk about something in general

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

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.

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

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

> My French teacher also speaks Italian and German.

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



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

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

Complete the table with the correct articles.

Now listen to how your teacher pronounces these words.

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

Let's practice!

no article the an a

with singular nouns that start with a consonant (b, c, d, etc.) before *u* when we pronounce it / ju:/ (e.g. a uniform) with jobs

with singular nouns that start with a, e, i, o,

before *h* when it is silent (e.g. *an hour*)

the first time we talk about something

when there is only one of something

when it is clear which person/thing we are talking about

> with musical instruments

the second time we talk about something

with plural countable nouns when talking in general

with uncountable nouns when talking in general

with languages

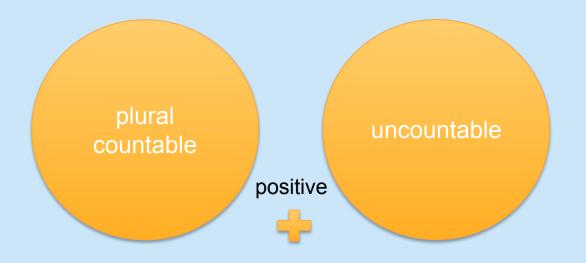
with most countries

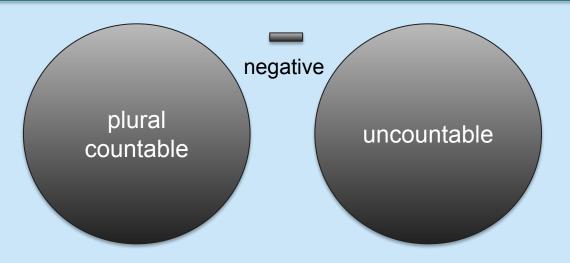
Practice activities

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

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

Explore grammar: quantity words





There aren't <u>many</u> **days** left until the holidays.

I need <u>some</u> **money** for the bus.

Would you like <u>a few</u> **sweets**?

We don't have any milk.

There are <u>some</u> fantastic **cafes** in my town.

I haven't got any pets.

The newspaper report didn't give <u>a lot of</u> information.

<u>All</u> **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 table (the first one is done for you).

the correct place in

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

in positive	in negatives
sentences	and questions

to talk about quantity when we don't know the number or amount

in negatives (and questions) with uncountable nouns

in negatives (and questions) with plural countable nouns

with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns

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 all some

(how) much any

a little a lot of

(how many) a few

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.