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# Articles

## Indefinite articles 'a/an'

We use *a* + consonant sound - *a book, a hospital, a [ju:] university, a [ju:] uniform*

We use *an* + vowel sound - *an apple, an hour, an heir, an interesting book, an [ʌ] ugly toy*

1. We use *a/an* with a singular noun when we mention something for the first:

I saw a dog in the street.

I bought a pen and a pencil yesterday.

2. One of many:

*There is a shop in my district.*

*There's a new cinema in Al-Farabi street.*

3. Any or it doesn't matter which one:

Give me a pen.

Can you lend me a copybook?

I'm eating a peach.

4. Every/each/per:

Five pounds (per) a kilo.

I go to the barber's (every) once a month.

I drink two liters of water (every/each) a day.

I never drive at more than 100 kilometers (per) an hour.

5. Description (who is who, what is what):

He is a doctor.

She is an optimist.

I'm a journalist.

It's a table.

This is a famous building.

6. To describe something or someone with *to be* or *to exclaim*:

That's a good book.

It's a nice day today.

Such a great day!

What a stupid mistake!

**But**

Such **a** clever children! What **an** awful whether! - **uncountable**

## Definite article 'the'

1. We use *the* with a singular or plural noun when we talk about something for the second time:

I bought **a** jacket and **a** scarf yesterday.

**The** jacket's blue and **the** scarf's grey.

These are my cassettes and DVDs. **The** cassettes are old, but **the** DVDs are new.

2. We use *the* when it is clear for listener/speaker which thing we mean because there is only one:

Jon's in **the** kitchen.

Feed **the** cat.

Switch off **the** lights.

Park **the** car.

Give me **the** knife on **the** table.

3. Places we go:

I go to **the** bank every month.

I go to **the** butcher's to buy some meat.

They went to **the** school to collect their kids.

I often go to **the** cinema but I haven't been to **the** theater for ages.

I was in **the** college once.

I visited him in **the** prison.

4. Ordinal numbers, the first, the millions, the hundreds, the rest:

It's **the first** bike I've ever owned!

**The first** day when we were on holiday was sunny.

The value of the contraband was in **the millions**.

These platforms provide new hope for **the millions** of women and children.

Most of **the hundreds** of companies belonged to private individuals.

I'd like to spend **the rest** of my life with you.

5. Superlatives:

Our team won **the most** games this year.

That's **the worst** excuse I've ever heard!

The Chicago Café makes **the** very **best** pizza in town. You should try it.

John 'Discussion' blog. What's **the most** important thing in your life?

What is **the longest** river in the world?

**The highest** mountain in the Alps is Mont Blanc.

6. Unique (I'm special):

We looked up at **the moon**.

What is the longest river in **the world**?

**The highest** mountain in the Alps is Mont Blanc.

I just had to leave **the earth's** atmosphere.

You must return to me before **the sun** sets.

But I don't think **the queen** would agree.

You can find their description in **the Internet**.

He said **the government** watching us.

7. We use the + adjective (without noun) to talk about groups of people, especially:

Do you think **the rich** should pay more taxes to help the poor?

**The homeless** need more help from the government.

However, not all **the unemployed** persons address themselves to this institution.

The epidemic incapacitates people at the ages when they are most needed for the support of **the young** and **the elderly**.

8. The same, the one, the other, the last:

Both are guilty of **the same** offence.

Your pullover is **the same** color as mine.

These two photographs are **the same**.

You've been **the one** running this program.

Actually, Klaus is **the one** that saved me tonight.

Except **the one** person she would expect least.

Undermining either objective may affect the realization **of the other**.

Wherever one went, **the other** would always follow.

But the boy driving **the other** car is innocent.

In **the last** two decades, Tuvalu has steadily matured politically and economically.

Maybe I spent **the last** six years thinking about it.

**The last** thing I need to do is wash my head.

That's **the last** time I ask you for any help.

## 9. Names:

*oceans:*

**the** Pacific Ocean

**the** Atlantic (Ocean)

**the** Indian Ocean

*seas:*

**the** Mediterranean

**the** Red Sea

**the** Caribbean Sea

**the** Caspian Sea

*rivers:*

**the** Nile

**the** (River) Amazon

**the** (River) Thames

**the** Rhine

**the** Volga

*canals:*

**the** Channel (between France and Britain)

**the** Suez Canal

*deserts:*

**the** Gobi Desert

**the** Sahara (Desert)

**the** Atacama Desert

**the** Karakum Desert.

We use **the** with *plural* names of people and places:

*people:*

**the** Taylors (= the Taylor family)

**the** Johnsons

**the** Simpsons

*countries:*

**the** Netherlands

**the** Philippines

*group of islands:*

**the** Canaries / **the** Canary Islands

**the** Bahamas

**the** British Isles

*mountain ranges:*

**the** Rocky Mountains / **the** Rockies

**the** Andes, **the** Alps

We use **the** in names with 'Republic', 'Kingdom', 'States', 'Federation':

**the** Republic of KZ

**the** Dominican Republic

**the** United Kingdom,

**the** United States of America

**the** Russian Federation.

These places usually have names with **the**:

*hotels/restaurants/pubs:*

**the** Station Hotel

**the** Bombay Restaurant,

**the** Red Lion (pub)

*theatres/cinemas:*

**the** Palace Theatre

**the** Odeon Cinema

*museums/galleries:*

**the** British Museum, **the** Tale Gallery;

*other buildings:*

**the** Empire State **Building**

**the** Festival **Hall**

**the** White **House**

*newspapers:*

**the** Washington **Post**

**the** Financial **Times**

*organisations:*

**the** European **Community**

**the** BBC (= the British Broadcasting **Corporation**)

names with **...of...** usually have **the**:

**the** Bank **of** England

**the** Tower **of** London

**the** Great Wall **of** China

**the** University **of** London

**the** Gulf **of** Mexico

## 10. Musical instruments:

Can you play **the** guitar?

**The** piano is my favorite instrument.

I want to learn to play **the** drums, but my parents won't let me.

## 11. Parts of the world:

*North/northern etc.:*

**the north** of France                      *but*   **northern** France ( *without 'the'* );

**the south-east** of Spain                *but*   **south-eastern** Spain ( *without 'the'* );

Sweden in **northern** Europe    *but*   Spain in **the south**.

*Also:*

**the** Middle East

**the** Far East

**the** North Pole

**the** South Pole



12. You can use **the** with some nationality adjectives to mean 'the people of that country':

**The French** are famous for their food. (= the people of France)

Why do **the English** think they are so wonderful? (= the people of England)

**the Spanish**

**the Dutch**

**the British**

**the Irish**

**the Welsh**

Note that **the French** / **the English** etc. are plural in meaning.

You can not say 'a French / an English'.

You have to say '**a Frenchman** / **an Englishwoman**' etc.

You can also use **the** + nationality words ending **-ese**:

**The Chinese**

**The Sudanese**

**The Chinese** invented printing.

These words can also be singular **a** Japanese, **a** Sudanese.

Also:

**the Swiss** / **a Swiss** (plural or singular).

With other nationalities, the plural noun ends in **-s**:

**an** Italian — (the) Italians

**a** Mexican — (the) Mexicans

**a** Scot — (the) Scots

**a** Turk — (the) Turks

13. We use **the** if we are talking about a specific thing:

Susan's reading **the** new book by William Bradley.

(We are talking about one specific book.)

We're going to see **the** play called The Mousetrap.

## Zero article

### 1. Meals:

I usually have toast for **breakfast**.

We buy some bread and cheese for **lunch**.

We usually have **dinner** at seven.

He told Will and me she slipped while serving **supper**.

### 2. Subjects:

I study **Mathematics** and **Economics**.

I'm studying **Business**.

### 3. Languages:

Can you speak **Spanish**?

Paul speaks **French** and **Italian**.

### 4. Sports and games:

I play **tennis**.

Can you play **chess**?

I like **football**.

### 5. With the names of:

*people:*

Is **Tim** coming with us?

Where's **Susan**?

*Mr/Mrs/Captain/Doctor etc. + a name:*

**Mr** Johnson / **Doctor** Sew / **President** Bush etc.

**Uncle** Robert / **Aunt** Jane / **Saint** Catherine / **Princess** Ann etc.

We called **Doctor** Johnson.

*the first word is usually the name of a person or a place:*

**Victoria Station**

**Edinburgh Castle**

**London Zoo**

**Westminster Abbey**

**Buckingham Palace**

**Canterbury Cathedral**

street:

They live in **King Street**.

The Grand Hotel is in **Baker Street**.

squares:

**Trafalgar Square** is in London.

**Central Square** is the home of actor Ben Affleck.

parks:

**Hyde Park** is a very large park in central London.

There is **Victoria Park** at the end of Baines Street.

mountains:

The highest mountain in Africa is **Kilimanjaro** (5,895 metres).

**Everest** was first climbed in 1953.

lakes:

Chicago is on **Lake Michigan**.

**Baikal** is the world's deepest lake.

continents:

**Africa**

**Europe**

**South America**

countries:

**France**

**Japan**

**Switzerland**

**north/south** etc. + place name:

**North America**

**West Africa**

**South-East Spain**

**northern/southern** etc.:

**northern France**

**south-eastern Spain**

states, regions etc.:

**Texas**

**Cornwall**

**Tuscany**

**Central Europe**

islands:

**Corsica**

**Sicily**

**Bermuda**

cities, towns etc.:

**Cairo**

**New York**

**Madrid**

many shops, restaurants, hotels, banks etc.:

**Harrods**

**McDonalds**

**Pizza Hut**

**Jack's Guest House**

**Lloyds Bank**

some magazines:

**Time**

**Hello**

churches are often named after saints:

**St John's Church**

**St Paul's Cathedral**

companies, airlines etc.:

**Fiat**

**Sony**

**Kodak**

**British Airways**

**IBM**

6. Some illnesses, especially serious ones:

She's got **diabetes/cancer**.

7. the phrase *watch television*:

She **watches television** after work.

Do you **watch television** every evening?

8. We don't use *the* with plural nouns and uncountable nouns when we are talking about something in general:

I don't like **vegetables**. (Not the vegetables)

**Diamonds** cost a lot of money.

9. With uncountable nouns:

**accommodation**

**behaviour**

**damage**

**luck**

**permission**

**traffic**

**advice**

**bread**

**furniture**

**luggage**

**progress**

**weather**

**baggage**

**chaos**

**information**

**news**

**scenery**

**work**

Enjoy your holiday! I hope you have good **weather**. (Not a vegetables)

I'm looking for **work**. (Not a work)

What beautiful **scenery**.

it's nice **traffic** today.

It was good **advice**.

10. *Little* and *few* are negative ideas (= not much / not many):

We must be quick. There is **little** time. (= not much, not enough time)

He isn't popular. He has **few** friends. (= not many, not enough friends)

You can say **very little** and **very few**:

There is **very little** time.

He has **very few** friends.

## Список полезных материалов

1. [Научись владеть английским свободно сейчас](#)
3. [Найди себе преподавателя по изучению любого языка](#)