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*To: Beginner’s Group*

*Subj: Lesson 8*

**Articles**

**1. CONCEPT: What is an article?**

An article is a kind of adjective which is always used with and gives some information about a noun. They are used very often and are important for using English accurately.

**There are two types of articles: Definite** (***a, an***) and **Indefinite** (***the***)

A definite article ***the*** indicates that its noun is a particular one identifiable to the listener. It may be something that the speaker has already mentioned, or it may be something uniquely specified. The definite article ***the*** can be used for singular and plural nouns.

Whereas Indefinite articles (***a, an***) are used when you talk about a thing in general, NOT a specific thing.

**2. GRAMMAR:**



Examples:

* *I need* ***a*** *phone.* Not a specific phone, any phone
* *Mark wants* ***a*** *bicycle.* Not a particular bicycle, a bicycle in general
* *Do you have* ***a*** *driver's license?* In general

Use ***a, an*** when talking about a thing which is new, unknown, or introduced to a listener for the first time. Also use ***a, an*** when you are asking about the existence of something.

* *I have* ***a*** *car.* The car is being introduced for the first time.
* *Tom is* ***a*** *teacher.* This is new information to the listener.
* *Is there* ***a*** *dictionary in your backpack?* Asking about the existence of the dictionary

Similarly, use ***a, an*** to introduce what type of thing we are talking about.

* *That is* ***an*** *excellent book.* Describing the kind of book
* *Do you live in* ***a*** *big house?* Asking about the kind of house
* *I ate* ***a*** *thick, juicy steak.* Describing the kind of steak

**REMEMBER:** You cannot use ***a, an*** with plural nouns because ***a, an*** means "one" or "a single".

• *I saw a bears in Yellowstone National Park*. **Not Correct**

• *I saw* ***bears*** *in Yellowstone National Park*. **Correct**



***The*** is called a definite article. "Definite" means "specific". Use ***The*** when talking about something which is already known to the listener or which has been previously mentioned, introduced, or discussed.

Examples:

* *I have a cat.* ***The*** *cat is black.*
* *There is a book in my backpack.* ***The*** *book is very heavy.*
* *Do you know where I left* ***the*** *car keys?* The listener knows which specific car keys you are talking about.
* *Do you own a car? Is* ***the*** *car blue?* You assume they do have a car after asking about it in the first sentence.
* *Nobody lives on* ***the*** *Moon.* The Moon is known to everyone.

You can use ***The*** with both singular nouns and plural nouns:

* *I saw* ***the*** *bear in Yellowstone National Park.* Correct
* *I saw* ***the*** *bears in Yellowstone National Park.* Correct

Use ***The*** when you assume there is just one of something in that place, even if it has not been mentioned before.

* *We went on a walk in* ***the*** *forest yesterday.*
* *Where is* ***the*** *bathroom?*
* *Turn left and go to number 45. Our house is across from* ***the*** *Italian restaurant.*
* *My father enjoyed* ***the*** *book you gave him.*

Use ***The*** in sentences or clauses where you define or identify a particular person or object.

* ***The*** *man who wrote this book is famous.*
* *I scratched* ***the*** *red car parked outside.*
* *I live in* ***the*** *small house with a blue door.*
* *He is* ***the*** *doctor I came to see.*

Use ***The*** to refer to people or objects that are unique.

* ***The*** *sun rose at 6:17 this morning.*
* *You can go anywhere in* ***the*** *world.*
* *Clouds drifted across* ***the*** *sky.*
* ***The*** *president will be speaking on TV tonight.*
* ***The*** *CEO of Total is coming to our meeting.*

Use ***The*** before superlatives and ordinal numbers.

* *This is* ***the*** *highest building in New York.*
* *She read* ***the*** *last chapter of her new book first.*
* *You are* ***the*** *tallest person in our class.*
* *This is* ***the*** *third time I have called you today.*

Use ***The*** with adjectives, to refer to a whole group of people.

* ***The*** *French enjoy cheese.*
* ***The*** *elderly require special attention.*
* *She has given a lot of money to* ***the*** *poor.*

Use ***The*** with decades.

* *He was born in* ***the*** *seventies.*
* *This is a painting from* ***the*** *1820's.*

Use ***The*** with clauses introduced by ***only***

* *This is* ***the*** *only day we've had sunshine all week.*
* *You are* ***the*** *only person he will listen to.*
* ***The*** *only tea I like is black tea.*

**Proper nouns**

Use ***The*** with names of geographical areas, rivers, mountain ranges, groups of islands, canals, and oceans.

* *They are travelling in* ***the*** *Arctic.*
* *Our ship crossed* ***the*** *Atlantic in 7 days.*
* *I will go on a cruise down* ***the*** *Nile.*
* *Hiking across* ***the*** *Rocky Mountains would be difficult.*

Use ***The*** with countries that have plural names and also when it’s about a group of Islands.

* *I have never been to* ***the*** *Netherlands.*
* *Do you know anyone who lives in* ***the*** *Philippines?*

Use ***The*** with countries that include the words "republic", "kingdom", or "states" in their names. In other words, when it’s about a group of states or countries.

* *She is visiting* ***the*** *United States.*
* *James is from* ***the*** *Republic of Ireland.*

Use ***The*** with newspaper names.

* *I read it in* ***the*** *Guardian.*
* *She works for* ***the*** *New York Times.*

Use ***The*** with the names of famous buildings, works of art, museums, or monuments.

* *Have you been to* ***the*** *Vietnam Memorial?*
* *We went to* ***the*** *Louvre and saw the Mona Lisa.*
* *I would like to visit the Eiffel Tower.*
* *I saw King Lear at* ***the*** *Globe.*

Use ***The*** with the names of hotels & restaurants, unless these are named after a person.

* *They are staying at* ***the*** *Hilton on 6th street.*
* *We ate at* ***the*** *Golden Lion.*

Use ***The*** with the names of families, but not with the names of individuals.

* *We're having dinner with* ***the*** *Smiths tonight.*
* *The Browns are going to* ***the*** *play with us.*

**When NOT to use:**

Do not use ***The*** with names of countries (except for the special cases above).

* *Germany is an important economic power.*
* *He's just returned from Zimbabwe.*

Do not use ***The*** with the names of languages.

* *French is spoken in Tahiti.*
* *English uses many words of Latin origin.*
* *Indonesian is a relatively new language.*

Do not use ***The*** with the names of meals.

* *Lunch is my favorite meal.*
* *I like to eat breakfast early.*

Do not use ***The*** with people's names.

* *John is coming over later.*
* *Mary Carpenter is my boss.*

Do not use ***The*** with titles when combined with names.

* *Prince Charles is Queen Elizabeth's son.*
* *President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.*

Do not use ***The*** after the 's possessive case

* *His brother's car was stolen.*
* *Peter's house is over there.*

Do not use ***The*** with professions

* *Engineering is a well-paid career.*
* *He'll probably study medicine.*

Do not use ***The*** with names of shops

* *I'll get the card at Smith's.*
* *Can you go to Boots for me?*

Do not ***The*** the with years

* *1948 was a wonderful year.*
* *He was born in 1995.*

Do not use ***The*** with uncountable nouns

* *Rice is an important food in Asia.*
* *Milk is often added to tea in England.*
* *War is destructive.*

Do not use ***The*** with the names of individual mountains, lakes and islands

* *Mount McKinley is the highest mountain in Alaska.*
* *She lives near Lake Windermere.*
* *Have you visited Long Island?*

Do not use ***The*** the with most names of towns, streets, stations and airports

* *Victoria Station is in the centre of London.*
* *Can you direct me to Bond Street?*
* *She lives in Florence.*
* *They're flying into Heathrow.*

**3. PRONUNCIATION**



**LISTEN:**

**/ə/** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/q7vvt9ds6mnqv16/a.mp3?dl=0>

**/ei/**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/wg4kqbsfnk20vhg/ei.mp3?dl=0>



**LISTEN:**

# /ðə/

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/pi5889e1ou8ruav/the%20da.mp3?dl=0>

# /ði:/

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/mnszjyte9srned4/the%20di.mp3?dl=0>

**4. EXERCISE**

Complete the following sentences using ***a, an*** or ***The***.

**1.** My mother is \_\_\_ doctor and my father is \_\_\_ actor.

**2.** Cindy recommended \_\_\_ good dentist, but \_\_\_dentist doesn't have any openings for two months.

**3.** Mt. Hood is\_\_\_volcano in Oregon. It's \_\_\_very beautiful mountain.

**4.** Sam recommended\_\_\_ book to Lisa. She didn't like \_\_\_book at all.

**5.** Do you have\_\_\_ vacuum cleaner? I dropped \_\_\_ piece of cake, and I need to clean it up.

**6.** Honey, where's\_\_\_\_umbrella? I can't find it. It was in \_\_\_closet, but now it's not there.

**7.** Do you have \_\_\_dictionary? I don't have one, and I need to look up\_\_\_word.

**8.** Do you have \_\_\_ passport? You need \_\_\_passport to travel outside of \_\_\_country.

**9.** There's \_\_\_big bear in\_\_\_backyard. I think \_\_\_bear is looking for something to eat.

**10.** Do you have \_\_\_computer? I have \_\_\_laptop and\_\_\_ iPad.