

The Indefinite Article – A / AN

We use A/AN with:

- 1. Singular nouns and the first time we refer to a person, animal or thing.
 - a child
 - an elephant
 - a television
- 2. We don't use A/AN with possessive pronouns, demonstratives or cardinal numbers.
 - My shirt is dirty.
 - This car is expensive.
 - One person is in the reception.
- 3. We use ONE (or more) instead of A/AN when the number is important.
 - There is only one exit from the airport.

A is used when the next word begins with a consonant sound (b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k etc).

- a book
- a table
- a clock
- a university (because the beginning of university sounds like YOU-niversity)

AN is used when the next word begins with a vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u).

- an apple
- an elephant
- an umbrella
- an hour (because the H is silent)

The Definite Article - THE

We use THE with:

- 1. A singular or plural noun when it is clear/obvious which person or thing we are talking about.
 - There is a lamp in my bedroom. (we mention the lamp for the first time)
 - The lamp is next to the desk.
- 2. Anything which we identify immediately.
 - We watched the new Brad Pitt movie last night.
- 3. Musical instruments (the violin, the guitar, the drums, the flute, the piccolo).
 - She plays the piano.
- 4. Something that is unique or there is only one.
 - the sun
 - the moon
 - the internet.
- 5. Names of rivers, seas, oceans, mountain ranges and deserts (always in capitals).
 - The Mississippi River
 - The Black Sea
 - The Andes
 - The Sahara Desert
- 6. Directions (cardinal points).
 - the west
 - the south-east
 - the north-west.



ZERO Article with Plural and Uncountable Nouns

General meaning

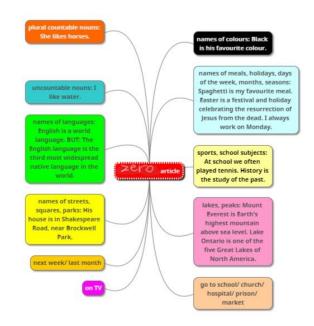
- cars, people
- life, water

Abstract nouns

• education, happiness, music

ZERO Article with Singular Countable Nouns

- People: Mary, Bill, Josef
- Places: Jupiter, Russia, Bangkok, Heathrow Airport, Cambridge University, Waterloo Station
- Streets: Oxford Street, Wall Street, Picadilly Circus
- Languages: English, Russian
- Academic subjects: History, Law, Physics
- Days, months: Monday, November
- Games and Sports: football, chess
- Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner
- Noun + Number: platform 3, room 7, page 44
- Routine Places: in bed, at home, to school, to work
- Movement or Transport: on foot, by car, by bus, by air
- Newspaper Headlines, Notices, User Guides: Plane Crashes On House, Keep Area Clean, Insert battery



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