

Articles

Table of Contents

- 2 QUICK AND HANDY GRAMMAR REVIEW**
Articles
- 9 EXERCISE 1**
Choose the correct article.
- 10 EXERCISE 2**
Choose a or an.
- 11 EXERCISE 3**
Lakes, Rivers, Mountains, Deserts, and Oceans
Place the or Ø before the nouns.
- 12 EXERCISE 4**
Plural Nouns at the Beginnings of Sentences
Place the or Ø before the nouns.
- 13 EXERCISE 5**
Error correction. Underline the mistakes and write the sentences correctly.
- 14 EXERCISE 6**
Using Articles with Time Expressions
Choose the correct article.
- 15 EXERCISE 7**
Insert the correct form of the articles the, a, an, or Ø in the story.
- 16 EXERCISE 8**
Insert the correct form of the articles the, a, an, or Ø in the story.

Quick and Handy Grammar Review

ARTICLES

When you first learn vocabulary words in English, you might be pleasantly surprised to know how simple articles are. There are only three. “A” and “an” are indefinite articles, and “the” is the only definite article. Because there is no gender in nouns in English (no masculine, feminine, or neutral forms), it is not difficult to choose an article. If you have studied German, Italian, French, or Spanish, you probably remember

how complicated articles can be. However, while the forms of the articles are easy, the use of articles in English is very complex. It is one aspect that must be memorized. Fortunately (or unfortunately), there are many rules to follow. You must become familiar with the rules. Articles are part of almost every sentence in the language. The charts below show the rules for how and when—and when not—to use articles.

A. Using “the”

Use “the”...	Examples
with specific, definite nouns Note: This includes nouns that both the speaker and listener know about or can see.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at the rainbow! The movie was boring, don’t you think? The class starts at 8:00 am sharp.
with nouns that are modified with a restrictive/defining adjective clause Note: This type of clause doesn’t contain commas and usually begins with <i>that</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The book that I read last week was great. The woman with the black hat asked him for the time. The teacher that we had last semester retired on Tuesday.
when there is only one of the noun *Note: “The” can be used even when there is more than one of a building type in the city if it’s clear which building you are referring to.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The moon is full tonight. She is going to stop by the mall* after class. Can you tell me how to get to the bank*?
with nouns that are mentioned a second time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I want a new car. The car doesn’t have to be expensive, though. They bought a TV yesterday. The TV has a huge screen.
with the names of oceans, seas, mountain ranges, deserts, and rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Amazon is longer than the Mississippi. The Pacific is the largest ocean. We go to the Alps every year to go skiing.
with musical instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ken plays the piano. The flute is a wind instrument.



Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

A. Using "the" cont.

Use "the"...	Examples
with certain time expressions Note: There is no article in "at night."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the morning • in the evening • in the afternoon
with inventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The radio was invented in 1920. • Marconi invented the telegraph. • The iPad was invented in 2009. • The electric light bulb was invented by Edison.
with ordinal numbers and ranking words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I fell in love the first time I saw her. • The next time you see John, tell him I miss him. • That was the second book he bought for the course.
with the names of museums, gardens, and zoos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The San Diego Zoo is great. • The Metropolitan Museum is on museum mile in New York. • The Botanical Gardens has hundreds of kinds of flowers.
with abstract adjectives <i>(to form nouns describing people)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The poor live on the west side. • This program is for the elderly. • The young should help the old.
with historical periods of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ice Age lasted many years. • There were two terrible wars in the twentieth century. • Dante lived in the Middle Ages.
with police, fire department, and branches of the military	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The police are coming right now. • Barbara is in the army. • The navy and the air force are attacking the port.
with country adjectives to describe people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The French drink a great deal of wine. • The Spanish love soccer. • The Chinese invented pasta.
with eye, ear, nose, and face, when hit by a foreign object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A rock hit him in the ear. • Hank punched Jeb in the face. • The ball hit Lester in the nose. • The door hit Luisa in the eye.



Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

A. Using "the" cont.

Use "the"...	Examples
with the second noun in a sentence that begins with <i>there + be</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a painting on the wall. • There are books on the shelves.
DO NOT use "the"...	Examples
with the first noun in a sentence that begins with <i>there + be</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a cat in the closet. • There is an apple on the desk. • There are people in the mosque.

B. Using "a" or "an"

Use "a" or "an"...	Examples
when a singular noun is indefinite (not already known or mentioned) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use "a" before a consonant sound • use "an" before a vowel sound 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They bought a car. • Vancouver is a beautiful city. • I had an orange for breakfast. • Ms. Han is an energetic woman.
in some words beginning with "u" or "h" <p>Note: It is the sound, not the letter, that determines "a" or "an."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use "a" when "u" sounds like /y/ • use "an" when the "h" is silent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That is an ugly car. (<i>ugly begins with a vowel sound</i>) • Mina is in a union. (<i>union begins with /y/, a consonant sound</i>) • There is a hair on the plate. (<i>hair begins with /h/, a consonant sound</i>) • Ken is an honest person. (<i>the "h" at the beginning of honest is silent</i>)
with numbers or letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hal got an A on the exam. • Lee got a B on the exam. • You must put an L in that word. (<i>"L" begins with a vowel sound, /el/</i>) • Maria earned an 8 out of 10. • The figure skater received a 7. • New begins with an N. (<i>"N" begins with a vowel sound, /en/</i>)



Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

B. Using "a" or "an" cont.

Use "a" or "an"...	Examples
to mean "each" or "per"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My father was driving 55 kilometers an hour. • Victoria makes \$120 a day. • The hotel costs \$200 a night. • The minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour.
with the first noun in a sentence that begins with <i>there + be</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a car in the driveway. • There was a woman looking for you. • There is an iPhone on the table.
with "little" or "few" (with a positive meaning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maya has a few close friends. • She wants to have a little fun.
with count nouns to quantify non-count nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a glass of milk • a cup of tea • a can of soda • a teaspoon of sugar • a pound of coffee • a bottle of wine
DO NOT use "a" or "an"...	Examples
with the second noun in a sentence that begins with <i>there + be</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a book on the shelf. • There are many pillows on the bed.
with "little" or "few" (with a negative meaning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Han has very few friends. • Dr. Co has little free time.
with plural nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has cousins in Australia. • She has friends in China. • I love books.
with non-count nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My father drinks coffee in the morning. • We need air to breathe. • Love will keep them together.

Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

C. When no articles are used

Use no articles...	Examples
with indefinite, non-count nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mona loves to drink tea. • Bill puts sugar in his coffee. • I have to put flour, butter, and water in the cake.
with a general, abstract noun *Note: Use "the" when the abstract noun is definite.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love is a powerful emotion. • Jealousy is the cause of problems. • The wisdom* of that woman is amazing.
with the names of roads, boulevards, streets, avenues, and lanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She lives on 27th street. • King Boulevard is a mile away. • The White House is on Pennsylvania Avenue. • Dr. Dolce lives on Kingsbridge Lane.
when generalizing in the plural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cats will not come when you call them. • People are generally honest. • Taxicabs are usually yellow. • Tigers are ferocious animals.
with the name of colleges and universities *Note: When the name of the school includes the word "of," use "the."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She studies at Rider College. • Nan lives at Miami University. • Walter goes to Burlington Community College. • Vic's daughter goes to the University of Pennsylvania*.
with the names of cities, countries, and states *Note: When the name of the country includes the word "of," use "the."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many oil wells in Texas. • Japan is located in Asia. • She lives in the United States of America*. • Last year I visited the Republic of South Korea*. • The Kingdom of Morocco* is hot and sunny.
with the verb "go" in certain expressions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • go home • go downtown • go to church • go to bed • go to jail • go to college / university / school



Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

C. When no articles are used cont.

Use no articles...	Examples
with individual lakes, islands, and mountain peaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We took a boat ride on Lake Como. Bermuda is a beautiful island. Mount Everest is the tallest mountain in the world.
with languages and religions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islam is the second largest religion in the world. Hinduism is the leading religion in India. Spanish is the number one language in South America. Many writers around the world use English.
with letters and numbers in a list	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please do number 1, Erika. "B" and "C" are correct. Step 6 in the recipe tells you to broil the fish for 10 minutes.
with the names of diseases *Note: Use "the" with "flu," "chicken pox," "mumps," and "measles."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancer is a terrible disease. She has diabetes. Many children get the flu* every year.
with nouns that are modified with a non-restrictive/non-defining adjective clause Note: This type of clause is surrounded by commas and usually begins with <i>which</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horror movies, which I don't enjoy, are usually rated "R." Pizza, which isn't exactly healthy for you, is popular in most countries. Time-management apps, which are often free, help people stay organized.

D. When it depends

Some companies and buildings use "the," but some don't. Unfortunately, there is no easy rule for this. It depends on who chose the name.

Use "the" or no article...	Examples
with the names of companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The employees at the New York Times work hard. I love the coffee at Starbucks.
with the names of restaurants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you eaten at that new restaurant called the Kingfisher? They love the food at Gordon Ramsey Steak in Las Vegas.



Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

D. When it depends cont.

Use "the" or no article...	Examples
with the names of theaters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ballet at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts was amazing. We went to a concert at Carnegie Hall.
with the names of airports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Los Angeles International Airport is very big and confusing. We landed at Hong Kong International Airport at 5:00 pm.
with the names of hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She works at the Scarborough Hospital in Toronto Massachusetts General Hospital has an excellent cardiology department.
with the names of bridges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Golden Gate Bridge is visible from many locations in San Francisco. Which is more famous, London Bridge or Tower Bridge?
with the names of hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We're staying at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Fort Lauderdale. Hotel Bel-Air is close to the main tourist attractions in Los Angeles.

E. When two forms are correct

When referring to seasons in general, use "the" or no article.
If referring to a particular season, use "the."

Use "the" or no article...	Examples
when referring to seasons in general	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We go snowboarding in winter. We go snowboarding in the winter. In summertime, everything is green and growing. In the summertime, everything is green and growing.
Use "the"...	Examples
when referring to a particular season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did you have a job in the summer? (= <i>last summer</i>) In the spring of 2012, they moved to New York.

Exercise 1

Choose the correct article to complete each sentence.
Choose from **a**, **an**, **the**, and **Ø** (no article).

1. It is not difficult to play _____ guitar.
2. _____ wolves are very dangerous animals.
3. Who invented _____ light bulb?
4. Have you ever eaten _____ Indian food?
5. _____ computers are really useful tools.
6. _____ police responded quickly to the call.
7. The fastest animal in the world is _____ cheetah.
8. _____ Nile River is the longest river in Africa.
9. There is _____ mug on the counter over there.
10. _____ movie that I saw last night was very good.
11. I really hate _____ scary movies.
12. _____ annual conference will be held at Aria in Las Vegas.
13. _____ Louvre is the most famous museum in France.
14. The Taj Mahal is located in _____ India.
15. _____ Mississippi River is very long.
16. _____ lakes are usually cleaner than _____ rivers.
17. _____ northern part of China is very cold.
18. She gave me _____ advice.
19. I ate _____ apple for lunch.
20. He was born in _____ taxicab.
21. I ate _____ breakfast at 7:00.
22. Chile is located in _____ South America.
23. My sister had _____ X-ray of her arm taken.
24. There is a painting on _____ wall in the living room.
25. I have never eaten _____ bread from Afghanistan.

Exercise 2

Pay close attention to the sound at the beginning of the word.
Choose **a** or **an** to complete the sentences.

1. Senator Jackson is _____ honest woman.
2. The teachers at Trinity College belong to _____ union.
3. The manager found _____ hair in her soup.
4. That is _____ ugly bag. I can't believe you paid \$200 for it.
5. Mildred's son attends _____ university in Houston, Texas.
6. Can you give me _____ hand. I can't do this by myself.
7. George was driving very fast, more than 95 miles _____ hour.
8. Basil is _____ herb. It has a wonderful flavor.
9. Chemistry is _____ hard course.
10. It is very difficult to get _____ A in physics.

Exercise 3

LAKES, RIVERS, MOUNTAINS, DESERTS, AND OCEANS

Complete the sentences by placing **the** or **Ø** (no article) before the nouns.

1. _____ Lake Titicaca is located on the border between Peru and Bolivia.
2. There are three states located on _____ Pacific Ocean: California, Oregon, and Washington.
3. _____ Sahara desert is located in northern Africa.
4. _____ Rocky Mountains pass through Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado.
5. _____ Nile is the longest river in the world.
6. Many people in Chicago take boat rides on _____ Lake Michigan.
7. China has one of the largest deserts in the world: _____ Gobi desert.
8. Now that it has been cleaned up, people go swimming in _____ Hudson River.
9. _____ Indian Ocean is the third largest ocean in the world.
10. The 2006 Winter Olympics were held in _____ Alps in northern Italy.
11. _____ Greenland is the largest island in the world. It is seldom green.
12. _____ Mojave desert is located in California, Nevada, and Utah.
13. Sochi, on _____ Black Sea in Russia, hosted the 2014 Winter Olympics.
14. _____ St. Lawrence River flows through Ontario and Quebec in Canada.
15. _____ Mount Everest is the tallest mountain in the Himalayas.

Exercise 4

PLURAL NOUNS AT THE BEGINNING OF SENTENCES

Complete the sentences by placing **the** or **Ø** (no article) before the nouns.

1. _____ elephants that we saw on the safari were drinking water from the lake.
2. _____ lions, which are called the kings of the jungle, are very aggressive.
3. _____ compact cars, which consume less gas than SUVs, also cost less.
4. _____ dogs, which are called people's best friends, are excellent companions.
5. _____ cats that live in Ms. Adams' house are of all colors and types.
6. _____ wines that come from Chile are fresh, light, and inexpensive.
7. _____ cups that we bought at the garage sale were made in England.
8. _____ cell phones, which are also used for text messaging, are the cause of many traffic accidents.
9. _____ people who live next door to us come from Albania.
10. _____ children, who like nothing better than playtime, are often noisy.

Exercise 5

Use the article charts in the Quick and Handy Grammar Review to analyze each sentence. Underline or circle the mistakes, and then write the sentences correctly. Some sentences have more than one error.

1. Julia started her degree at University of Florida but finished at the Harvard.

2. Harold puts a sugar in his coffee.

3. Uzbecki does not eat a seafood.

4. The beaches in the Cuba have the white sand.

5. She'd rather go downtown than go to the home.

6. His Porsche can go 100 miles the hour.

7. Personal computer was great invention.

8. I usually work in afternoon, and my friend works in morning.

9. My counselor always gives me an advice about my courses.

10. The lions love to eat the meat.

Exercise 6

USING ARTICLES WITH TIME EXPRESSIONS

Choose the correct article to complete each sentence.
Choose from **a**, **an**, **the**, and **Ø** (no article).

1. In _____ summer, we always go to the beach.
2. I will meet you at _____ 8:00 in front of the library.
3. George loves to go skiing in _____ winter.
4. The engineer scheduled the meeting for _____ Monday, June 6.
5. I can't believe that you came home at 7:00 in _____ morning. What a wild night!
6. The American Revolution took place during _____ 18th century.
7. _____ last time I saw Raymond, he was working in a coffee shop.
8. Kristin does not work on weekends. She works on _____ Mondays.
9. Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci painted during _____ Renaissance.
10. Our project is on the architecture of _____ Middle Ages.

Exercise 7

Choose the correct articles to complete the story.
Choose from **a**, **an**, **the**, and **Ø** (no article).

SNOW DAY

Last Tuesday was 1 first day of 2 school for 3 spring semester.
 However, when I woke up and looked out 4 window, I noticed that there was 5
 lot of 6 snow outside. 7 snow was so high that I couldn't see 8 my car. It
 was covered with 9 snow. I got dressed, but I couldn't find my boots. 10 boots
 were under 11 bed. I went outside and found 12 shovel next to 13 door.
 There was 14 strange sight in front of 15 house. 16 deer was standing on
17 lawn, looking at me. 18 deer did not move, and I did not move either. We
 looked at each other for 19 few minutes. Then 20 deer ran down 21 street.
 I was ready to shovel and I saw two squirrels next to 22 tree. There were 23
 animals everywhere. 24 squirrels love to run around, even in 25 snow.

I shoveled 26 driveway and found 27 car. In 28 winter, I usually park
 in 29 garage, but last night I forgot. It took me 30 long time to clean the snow
 off 31 car. It was 32 unusual morning. After one hour of work, I was ready
 to go to 33 school. I got into 34 car and drove 20 miles 35 hour down 36
 street. It took me 37 50 minutes to get to 38 school building. I had 39 cup
 of coffee. They did not have 40 sugar or 41 milk because 42 delivery truck
 got stuck on 43 Kennedy Boulevard, so I drank 44 black coffee. When I came
 into 45 room, there was 46 notice on 47 board. 48 professor was not
 coming to 49 school. He had 50 accident. What 51 bad luck! Then I had
 to fight 52 snow and drive 53 home again.

Exercise 8

Choose the correct articles to complete the story.

Choose from **a**, **an**, **the**, and **Ø** (no article).

LAKE TAHOE

Lake Tahoe is located on 1 border between 2 California and 3 Nevada.

It is 4 four-season paradise. In 5 winter, people come to ski in 6 high mountains. 7 Sierra Nevada Mountains provide excellent skiing, and there

are 8 many lifts. Squaw Valley, 9 second largest ski area, was 10 site of 11 1960 Winter Olympics. In 12 spring, 13 snow begins to melt and

run down 14 mountain. Much of 15 melted snow ends up in 16 lake.

In 17 summer, 18 Lake Tahoe is used for swimming and boating.

19 lake water is clean and cool.

On 20 Nevada side, there are 21 casinos. 22 Casinos attract many

visitors to 23 area. Most are in 24 Stateline, Nevada, which borders

25 lake. 26 combination of blue water, white mountaintops, and

green grass is 27 unusual sight of beauty. 28 people return

year after year to enjoy 29 vacation spot.