

THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE: *an / a*

is used in the following ways:

⇒ before unspecified singular **countable** nouns

*She works in **an** office.*

⇒ with the names of professions

*She's **an** executive and he's **a** manager.*

⇒ in expressions of measurement

*We charge \$500 **an** hour.*

*It sells at \$ 1.75 **a** litre.*

⇒ before a noun to mean all things of the same type (*usually in definitions*)

***A** loss leader is **an** article that a store sells at a low price to tempt customers to buy other goods.*

⇒ to talk about something in general

***A** good bank shouldn't charge you more than five per cent interest.*

***A** government should look after its citizens.*

THE DEFINITE ARTICLE: THE

is used in the following ways:

⇒ when it is clear from the context what particular thing or place is meant

*I'll meet you in **the** reception area.*

⇒ before a noun that we have mentioned before

*They had **a** villa in Cannes and **a** chalet in Innsbruck but they sold **the** villa.*

⇒ before adjectives to specify a category of people or things
the rich, the poor, the French, the unemployed

⇒ when the object is part of our particular world or area of interest

*I've got to go to **the** bank. (I'm referring to my usual bank.)*

⇒ before things that are unique

*Don't stay in **the** sun. (There is only one sun.)*

ZERO ARTICLE: 0

is used in the following ways:

⇒ before **uncountable** nouns used in general statements

*Money is the root of all **0** evil.*

⇒ usually there is no article before the names of places and people
(proper names)

***0** Poland, **0** Japan, **0** Dr Spock, **0** President Bush*

PLACE NAMES

- in general, zero article is used for the names of places, especially **ZERO ARTICLE** is used for:
 - Continents: *Europe, Asia*
 - Countries / States: *France, Poland, Finland, Bavaria, Ohio*
 - Islands: *Easter Island, Christmas Island, Crete, Madeira*
 - Mountains: *Everest, Mont Blanc, North Hill (BUT the Jungfrau, the Materhorn)*
 - Lakes: *Lake Geneva, Lake Michigan*
 - Cities: *Denver, London, Lyons (BUT the Hague)*
 - Parks: *Central Park, Hyde Park*
 - Roads / Streets: *Fifth Avenue, Church Street (BUT the M6, the A1)*
 - Squares: *Time Square, Trafalgar Square*
 - Palaces: *Buckingham Palace, Lambeth Palace*
 - Cathedrals: *Milan Cathedral, Saint Vitus's Cathedral*
 - Universities: *Cambridge University, Masaryk University*
 - Stations: *Victoria Station, Waterloo Station*
 - Airports: *Orly, Heathrow*

- **BUT** all the following use **THE**
 - Plurals: *the Alps, the Himalayas, the Bahamas, the Netherlands*
 - Adjectives + place: *The Red Sea, the Middle East, the West End*
 - Phrases with of: *the House of Parliament, the Isle of Man, the University of York, the Palace of Westminster, the South of France, the University of Cambridge (BUT Cambridge University)*
 - Political constitutions: *the Irish Republic, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom*
 - Oceans, seas, rivers and canals, : *the Pacific Ocean, the Mediterranean, the Nile, the Vltava, the Suez Canal*
 - Theatres, cinemas and galleries: *The Globe (theatre), the Plaza (cinema), the Tate (Gallery) (BUT: St Martin's theatre)*
 - Hotels: *the Marriott, the Hilton*
 - Famous buildings: *the Eiffel Tower, the Taj Mahal, the White House*

