

SOC b2500
Sociological Writing
(“Making Sociology Speak”)

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Office 3.66

Consultation Hours:

By appointment



STOP!
GRAMMAR
TIME!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otCpCn0l4Wo>

Definite Article: *The*

Use *the* before nouns that are specifically identified.

- Wear *the* boots you bought at *the* Vietnamese market.
- Jana had *the* most compelling performance.
- *The* sun rose at six.

Each of these nouns is specifically identified by the context.

Definite Article: *The*

***The* should not be used with plural or non-count nouns.**

- The state covers the cost of teaching students.
- News magazines report studies about picking colleges.

Generally, do not use the with proper nouns that name people, places and things. But of course, there are some exceptions: the Alps, the Great Lakes, the Czech Republic.

Indefinite Articles: *A and An*

Use *a* or *an* for singular count nouns not specifically identified.

- Apple started *a* revolution in personal computers.
- Petr has *an* interesting insect collection.
- It's *a* beautiful day outside.

Indefinite Articles: *A and An*

As a rule, *a* before consonants; *an* before vowels.

- A rabbit; an awkward rabbit
- An umbrella; a blue umbrella

H depends on whether it's hard or soft:

- A hand
- An hour
- But if you want to be really pretentious: *an* historical

Don't use *a* and *an* with plural nouns.

- Tereza borrowed enough money to cover expenses.
- The exhibit consisted a hastily arranged grouping of native costumes

Indefinite Articles: *A and An*

In general, don't use *a* or *an* with non-count nouns.

- Lara wrote about pollution
- While you are shopping, please get beer and vodka.

If you want to show a particular amount of a noncount noun, put a count noun first and add of.

- A case of beer
- A bottle of vodka