

# LESSON 8

## Articles

**Definition:** The article is a special function word in English that is used before a noun. The article is often not translated into Azerbaijani. In English, the article is a determiner of a noun and is not an independent part of speech.

There are two types of articles:

- 1) Indefinite articles: a, an
- 2) Definite article: the

### 1. Use of the articles **a / an**

The indefinite article comes from the numeral «one» and therefore, it is used with singular countable nouns. The form **a** is used before words that begin with a consonant, and the form **an** is used before words that begin with a vowel sound.

Rule 1		
Articles	Examples	Notes
A	I have a pen	❖ before the consonant sound
an	I have an apple	❖ before the vowel sound

Rule 2	
❖ If there is an adjective or adverb before the noun	
I see a big apple	
I see an orange apple	
It is a very big table	

### Rule 3

❖ Before the numerals

a hundred, a thousand, a million, a billion, a trillion

### Rule 4

❖ After the words *such, quite, rather*

❖ Before the words *rather, most*

You are such a clown today.  
It's quite a long way.  
We had to wait rather a long time.

### Rule 5

❖ Before the words *rather, most*

He is a rather tall man.  
My brother is a most extraordinary man.

### Rule 6

❖ In exclamatory sentences after the word *what, such*

What a tall man!  
What a beautiful woman!  
Today is such a good weather!

### Rule 7

❖ In the transition of uncountable nouns to the category of countable

I'd like a whiskey.  
Let's drink, a coffee or two?  
It is a very expensive wine

### Rule 8

❖ After the adjectives in combination with the adverbs *too, as, so*

It is too long a way to go on foot.  
He is as tall a man as you.  
This isn't so difficult a problem as I first thought.

### Rule 9

❖ Before the names, surnames of persons

A Peter called you.  
She is a Brown.  
A Mister Brown is waiting for you.

### Rule 10

❖ In stable expressions

a few  
a little  
a lot of  
a number of  
as a result  
at a distance of  
at a loss  
at a speed of  
at a time  
for a long time  
in a hurry  
in a whisper  
on a large scale  
to go for a walk  
to have a good time

## 2. Use of the article **the**

The definite article in English has one form - **the**. This article comes from the pronoun «that». The article **the** is used both with singular and plural countable nouns and with uncountable nouns. The article **the** has two types of pronunciation:

- ❖ as [ðə] - is pronounced before words that begin with a consonant sound
- ❖ as [ði:] - is pronounced before words that begin with a vowel sound.

### Rule 11

❖ Before a known noun that has already been mentioned

I saw a girl. The girl was tall.  
Yesterday I bought a book. The book was very interesting.

### Rule 12

❖ Before the names of social classes and groups of people

the sick  
the poor  
the rich  
the aristocracy  
the blind

### Rule 13

❖ Before the kinds of art

The theater was very popular two centuries ago.

### Rule 14

❖ Before the names of large periods of time and eras

Mysteries of the past.  
Wars of the Middle Ages.

### Rule 15

❖ Before nouns that have the only presence somewhere

The head  
The floor  
The nose

### Rule 16

❖ Before the nouns denoting some places

at the chemist's  
at the baker's  
at the butcher's  
at my uncle's

### Rule 17

❖ Before the singular and plural nouns

He liked the present I bought.  
He liked the presents I bought.

### Rule 18

❖ In combinations with some nouns

the press  
the government  
the army

### Rule 19

❖ Before the proper nouns

the Sun  
the North Star  
the Pacific Ocean  
the Baltic Sea  
the Panama Canal  
the South Pole  
the Middle East  
the North  
the West  
the USA  
the Netherlands  
the United Kingdom  
the Kremlin  
the White House

the Eiffel Tower  
the Sahara

### Rule 20

❖ Before the names of nationalities

the Russians  
the Americans

### Rule 21

❖ When specifying a post

Clinton was elected President.  
President Clinton ordered.  
He is the President of the USA.

### Rule 22

❖ Before the names of organizations, political parties, etc.

the Red Cross  
the Democratic Party

### Rule 23

❖ Before the newspaper, magazine names

the Times  
the Guardian

### Rule 24

❖ Before the names denoting body parts

pains in the back

### Rule 25

❖ Before the nouns denoting families

the Mitchells  
the Simpsons

### Rule 26

❖ Before the nicknames

Nicky the Tall

### Rule 27

❖ For further clarification

She married George Brown, but it is not the George Brown who owns the local oil company.

### Rule 28

❖ Before the adjectives in superlative degree

The most  
The least  
The worst  
The biggest  
The tallest

### Rule 29

❖ Before the ordinal numerals

The first  
The seventh

### Rule 30

❖ After the words *all, both*

All the books are torn.  
Both persons were innocent.

### Rule 31

❖ Before the words *next, following, last, very, only*

The next question I have is how much I will be paid.  
We met again the following day.  
He was the last to leave.  
He is the very man I want to see.  
It is the only thing that matters for me.

### Rule 32

❖ In stable expressions

all the same  
by the way  
in the morning  
in the afternoon  
in the evening  
at night  
on the one hand  
on the other hand  
to the right  
to the left  
on the whole  
the day after tomorrow  
the day before yesterday  
to play the piano  
to play the violin  
to play the guitar  
to tell the truth

### 3. Omission of articles

#### Rule 33

❖ Use of indefinite pronouns *some, any*

We see some books.  
We don't see any books.  
Do you see any books?

#### Rule 34

❖ When a noun is preceded by possessive or demonstrative pronouns

It is my book  
I know this man

#### Rule 35

❖ Omission of articles *a, an* before uncountable nouns

I see oil  
It is bread

#### Rule 36

❖ Omission of articles before some geographical names

Cardiff Bay  
Kamchatka  
Lake Ontario  
Niagara Falls  
Malta  
Everest  
Europe  
Asia  
Mexico  
London  
Saint-Petersburg

## Rule 37

### ❖ Omission of articles in stable expressions

at breakfast  
at dinner  
at lunch  
at home  
at night  
at sunset  
at sunrise  
at war  
at peace  
by accident  
by chance  
by air  
by water  
by sea  
by land  
by heart  
by mistake  
by train  
by ship  
by bus  
from time to time  
in case of  
in fact  
in secret  
in sight  
in time  
on demand

### REMEMBER!

- 1) The article is not used before the names of cities (**exception: The Hague**)
- 2) Before the names of streets and squares (**Broadway, Times Square**)
- 3) Before the names of sciences and subjects (**literature, history, mathematics ...**)
- 4) Before the names of ranks and positions (**President, Professor**)
- 5) Before the names of countries, continents and large territories (**Europe, Asia, Siberia**)
- 6) Before the gerund (**teaching, singing, learning, studying**)
- 7) Before the nouns in the general, common sense (**Dog is a domestic animal**)

- 8) Before sporting events (**The FIFA World Cup**)
- 9) Before the names of famous ships and trains (**the Mayflower**)
- 10) Before the names of countries that contain the words states, kingdom, republic, emirates, union in the name (**the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Dominican Republic, the Russian Federation, The United Arab Emirates, The Soviet Union**)
- 11) Before the names of rivers, seas, canals, oceans, deserts, groups of islands, chains of mountains (**the Amazon, the Maldives, the Black Sea, the Sahara, the Panama Canal**)
- 12) Before the names of hotels, cinemas, theaters, museums, galleries, restaurants, pubs (**the Plaza hotel, the Odeon restaurant, the Kremlin, the Red Lion pub**)
- 13) Before the names of pubs, restaurants, shops, banks and hotels that have a last name or first name that end in **-s** or **-'s** (**McDonald's, Harrods**)
- 14) Before the names of the cardinal directions (**The North, the South, the East, the West**) and the poles (**The North Pole, the South Pole**). However, when indicating the direction of movement, the article is not used: **The river flows from east to west.**
- 15) Before the names of some countries (**the Philippines, the Congo, the Yemen, the Lebanon, the Sudan, the Gambia, the Netherlands, the Ukraine**)
- 16) The names of streets, avenues, squares and parks are usually written without the definite article (**Nikitskaya street, Fleet street, Trafalgar Square, Broadway, Gorky Park**). But, there are a few historical exceptions: **The High street, The Mall, The Strand, The Wall street.**

### The use of the article before the names of nationalities

1. English nouns denoting nationality are formed in different ways, usually by adding the suffixes **-(i)an, -ss, -ch, -ese, -sh**.

Only those nouns denoting nationality that end in **-(i)an** and **-i** are pluralized by adding **-s**:

- ❖ a German - Germans
- ❖ a Russian - Russians
- ❖ a Georgian - Georgians
- ❖ a Ukrainian - Ukrainians
- ❖ a Belarusian - Belarusians
- ❖ a Brazilian - Brazilians
- ❖ a Belgian - Belgians
- ❖ an Omani - Omanis - inhabitants of Oman etc.

If the whole nation is meant, then the article is not put before such nouns:

- ❖ Mexicans are used to eating spicy food.
- ❖ Do Americans eat hot dogs and hamburgers every day?

- ❖ Canadians are crazy about hockey.

2. Nationality nouns ending in **-ss, -ch, -ese, -sh** do not have a plural form and should be preceded by the definite article **the** when referring to the whole nation:

- ❖ the British
- ❖ the Scotch
- ❖ the Chinese
- ❖ the Portuguese
- ❖ the Dutch
- ❖ the Swiss
- ❖ The Japanese are highly regarded for their politeness.
- ❖ The Chinese respect education.
- ❖ The Portuguese settled Brazil.

Nouns like **the French** or **the English** etc. do not have a plural. If we want to talk about one person, we should use:

- ❖ a Frenchman
- ❖ an English woman
- ❖ a Scotchman

As for nationalities ending in the suffix **-ese** or **-s**, they can be singular:

- ❖ a Japanese
- ❖ a Sudanese
- ❖ a Swiss etc.

3. If the word **people** is used, then both the definite **the** and the zero article (no article) are possible:

- ❖ (The) Japanese people have to deal with many natural disasters.
- ❖ (The) American people hate taxes.

4. The definite article **the** is used when referring to a certain group of people of the same nationality:

- ❖ The Scotch / The Scots will not be able to come tonight (a certain group of people from Scotland).
- ❖ I hope Jeff invited the Italians (a certain group of acquaintances from Italy).
- ❖ The Brazils did not win 2018 World Cup (a football team).

Table with names of countries, nationalities and languages

Country страна	Nationality национальность	Language язык
England	English	English
Germany	German	German
France	French	French
Spain	Spanish	Spanish
Mexico	Mexican	Spanish
Greece	Greek	Greek
Poland	Polish	Polish
Turkey	Turkish	Turkish
Finland	Finnish	Finnish
Canada	Canadian	English or French
The United States	American	English
Australia	Australian	English
Argentina	Argentinian	Spanish
China	Chinese	Chinese
Japan	Japanese	Japanese
Ukraine	Ukrainian	Ukrainian
Italy	Italian	Italian
Ireland	Irish	English or Irish
Brazil	Brazilian	Portuguese
Portugal	Portuguese	Portuguese
Hungary	Hungarian	Hungarian
Egypt	Egyptian	Arabic
Vietnam	Vietnamese	Vietnamese
Thailand	Thai	Thai
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabian	Arabic
Sweden	Swedish	Swedish
Korea	Korean	Korean
India	Indian	Hindi
Scotland	Scottish	Scottish or English
Switzerland	Swiss	Swiss-German
Malaysia	Malaysian	Malaysian
Venezuela	Venezuelan	Spanish
Estonia	Estonian	Estonian
Austria	Austrian	German
Belgium	Belgian	Dutch or French
Bulgaria	Bulgarian	Bulgarian
Norway	Norwegian	Norwegian
Romania	Romanian	Romanian
Serbia	Serbian	Serbian
Croatia	Croatian	Croatian
Montenegro	Montenegrin	Montenegrin
The United Kingdom	British	English