

LESSON 8

Articles

Indefinite articles: a, an

Definite article: the

1. Use of the articles **a** and **an**

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

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 *what, such, quite, rather, most*

What a loss!
You are such a clown today.
It's quite a long way.

Rule 5

❖ In exclamatory sentences after the word *what*

What a tall man!
What a beautiful woman!

Rule 6

❖ 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 7

❖ 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.
It is so a lot.

Rule 8

❖ Before the names, surnames of persons

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

Rule 9

❖ 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**

Rule 10

❖ 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 11

❖ Before the names of social classes and groups of people

the sick
the poor
the rich
the aristocracy
the blind

Rule 12

❖ Before the kinds of art

The theater was very popular two centuries ago.

Rule 13

❖ Before the names of large periods of time and eras

Mysteries of the past.
Wars of the Middle Ages.

Rule 14

❖ before nouns that have the only presence somewhere

The head
The floor
The nose

Rule 15

❖ Before the nouns denoting some places

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

Rule 16

❖ Before the singular and plural nouns

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

Rule 17

❖ In combinations with some nouns

the press
the government
the army

Rule 18

❖ 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 19

❖ Before the names of nationalities

the Russians
the Americans

Rule 20

❖ When specifying a post

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

Rule 21

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

the Red Cross
the Democratic Party

Rule 22

❖ Before the newspaper, magazine names

the Times
the Guardian

Rule 23

❖ Before the names denoting body parts

pains in the back

Rule 24

❖ Before the nouns denoting families

the Mitchells
the Simpsons

Rule 25

❖ Before the nicknames

Nicky the Tall

Rule 26

❖ For further clarification

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

Rule 27

❖ Before the adjectives in superlative degree

The most
The least
The worst
The biggest
The tallest

Rule 28

❖ Before the ordinal numbers

The first
The seventh

Rule 29

❖ After the words *all, both*

All the books are torn.
Both the pens do not write.

Rule 30

❖ 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 31

❖ Use of indefinite pronouns *some, any*

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

Rule 32

❖ when a noun is preceded by possessive or demonstrative pronouns

It is my book
I know this man

Rule 33

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

I see oil
It is bread

Rule 34

❖ Omission of articles before some geographical names

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

Rule 35

❖ 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