

Articles: A, An, The, Ø (Nothing), Some

FORM: A, AN, THE, Ø (nothing), SOME

“a” and “an” are known as either general determiners or the indefinite articles.

Use “a” with a singular countable noun that has a **CONSONANT SOUND**.

Examples: *a banana, a university, a house*

Use “an” with a singular countable noun that has a **VOWEL SOUND**.

Examples: *an apple, an uncle, an hour*

“The” is called a definite article. It has two different pronunciations.

“The” is pronounced /ðə/ when it is followed by a word beginning with a consonant sound. Example: *The sculptors*

It is pronounced /ði:/ when it is followed by a word beginning with a vowel sound.

Example: *The artists.*

USE:

1. Usually, the **indefinite articles (a, an, Ø)** are used to **introduce** a noun. **The definite article (the)** is used when a noun or an idea is **repeated**.
Example: *I had a bowl of soup and a sandwich for supper last night.*
The soup was hot and delicious, but **the** sandwich wasn't very tasty.

2. A noun is **qualified** if there is an extra definition after it. In this case, use “**the**”.
Example: *The man that spoke to me on the bus this morning was very nice.*

If a noun is **not qualified**, use the indefinite articles (**a, an, Ø**).

Example: *This morning on the bus, I talked to a nice man.*

NOTE: A noun is **NOT** qualified if there is a description **BEFORE** it.

Example: *I love Belgian chocolate.* (unqualified)

I love the chocolate from Belgium. (qualified)

SPECIAL RULES FOR “THE”.

1. Use “**The**” when the speaker and the listener know the noun.
Example: *If you need to use **the** computers, ask **the** receptionist.*
2. Use “**The**” to introduce unique things.
Example: ***The** Queen of England will visit Canada next year.*
3. Use “**The**” when the idea is always true.
Example: *I don’t like washing **the** dishes.*
4. Use “**The**” with superlatives.
Example: ***The** best time to visit New England is the autumn.*
5. Use “**The**” with a singular noun to represent all similar nouns.
Example: ***The** kangaroo is a symbol of Australia.*
6. Use “**The**” with a noun that is immediately identified.
Example: *This is **the** ring that I will give to my girlfriend on her birthday.*
7. Use “**The**” with proper compound nouns if the second noun of the compound is a common noun.
Example: *If you go to New York, you must see **the** Brooklyn Bridge.*

NOTE: Do not use “**the**” if the second noun is a proper name.

Example: *I have studied for three months at Centre Linguista.*

NO ARTICLE (Ø)

1. Don’t use articles with most proper nouns.
Example: *Next week, we will visit ...Madrid, the capital of...Spain.*
2. Don’t use articles with uncountable nouns.
Example: *Our teacher has a lot of ...patience.*
NOTE: It makes a difference if the uncountable noun is **qualified**.
Examples: *Her house has beautiful...furniture.*
***The** furniture at our college is brand new.*
3. Don’t use articles with plural nouns.
Example: *Is it true that...Mexicans eat...tacos every day?*
NOTE: It makes a difference if the plural nouns are **qualified**.
Examples: ***The** women that go to the meetings are intelligent.*

EXTRA NOTES

1. When you describe a noun with a dictionary definition use **a, an and Ø**.
Example: *A piano is **an** instrument with many strings played on a keyboard.*
2. **SOME** is used when you have, need or offer something.
Examples: *I have **some** advice about your money problem.*
*I need **some** advice about where to go on my vacation.*
*Would you like **some** advice about marriage?*
BUT *I don’t take ...advice from strangers.*

Fill in the blanks with A, AN, THE, SOME or Ø.

1. A: Do you like _____ fruit?
B: Very much.
2. A: I'm hungry.
B: Would you like _____ fruit? How about _____ apple?
3. A: _____ fruit we bought at the market was fresh.
B: That's the best place to buy _____ fruit.
4. _____ gas is expensive nowadays.
5. _____ gas at Sam's Service Station is cheaper than _____ gas at the Esso Station.
6. I need _____ gas. Let's stop at the next service station.
7. Karen bought _____ radio. She likes to listen to _____ music when she studies.
8. Would you please turn _____ radio down? _____ music is too loud.
9. A: Do you see _____ man who is standing next to David?
B: Yes. Who is he?
A: He's _____ president of this college.
10. He visited _____ Kremlin while he was in _____ Moscow.
11. A: What did you buy when you went shopping?
B: I bought _____ blouse and _____ jewelry.
C: What colour is _____ blouse?
D: White.
12. A: Where's my knapsack?
B: It's on _____ floor over there, in _____ corner next to _____ couch.
13. We need to buy _____ furniture. I'd like to get _____ sofa and _____ easy chair.
14. _____ furniture is expensive these days.
15. _____ vegetarian doesn't eat _____ meat.
16. A: Let's go swimming in _____ lake today.
B: That sounds like _____ good idea!
17. _____ lake is a body of _____ water that is smaller than _____ sea but larger than _____ pond. _____ ocean is larger than _____ sea.

Intermediate 1 – Exercise 14 – Articles: A, An, The, Ø (Nothing), Some

18. He is _____ honest man and deserves _____ lot of praise.
19. What _____ cozy room!
20. What _____ gorgeous hair she has!
21. He has _____ girlfriend who is _____ teacher at _____ university.
22. What _____ beautiful furniture they have!
23. There is _____ box of chocolates on top of the kitchen counter.
24. I have _____ errand to run.
25. Since it was _____ beautiful day, we all went to the beach.

Supply A, AN, THE or Ø where necessary.

(1) _____ person can have (2) _____ interesting life after (3) _____ age of 65. Of course, this depends on (4) _____ person and (5) _____ attitude which he or she has toward (6) _____ life. Here is (7) _____ example. (8) _____ man who had been in (9) _____ large company before retiring started (10) _____ community center for people (11) _____ over 65. He later started (12) _____ fitness program for (13) _____ members of (14) _____ community center. (15) _____ fitness program was very successful. It is now one of (16) _____ most popular programs for (17) _____ seniors in this part of (18) _____ country. At (19) _____ age of 70, _____ (20) same man learned (20) _____ foreign language, built (21) _____ house, and wrote (22) _____ book titled (23) _____ *Benefits of* (24) _____ *Old Age*.

Fill in the blanks in the spaces below with THE, A, AN, SOME or Ø.

Betty likes to go to _____ (1) local bookstore. If I need to buy _____ (2) books for my children, I often ask her advice. She has two rooms full of books in her house. In general, she finds that buying _____ (3) book today is very expensive, although _____ (4) paperback books are still fairly inexpensive. Usually, _____ (5) used book is about a third of the price of _____ (6) new book. She said she would like to give me _____ (7) classic stories for children and _____ (8) mysteries next time I see her. _____ (9) cheapest books in town are at Bob's

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Used Bookstore near the university. At Bob's, _____ (10) old and used books in the back room are all three dollars or less. Once Betty bought _____ (11) edition that cost \$50.00. This book was _____ (12) atlas, with pages and pages of beautifully colored maps. Betty feels that _____ (13) books are a good thing to spend money on these days even though they might seem very expensive to most people. _____ (14) nicest thing about _____ (15) books, according to Betty, is that you can always keep them, to look at or read again and again.

Decide if each sentence below is correct or incorrect. If it is incorrect, indicate the correction needed.

1. The women usually live longer than the men.
2. In the Mexico, people drink the tequila to celebrate special occasions.
3. In many cultures, women's family pays for the wedding.
4. Many of the best hockey players in the world are from Canada.
5. The most Muslims don't eat pork.
6. It is not polite to look at your boss in the eyes in Korea.
7. The life is beautiful.
8. Older children don't usually give their mothers a hug or kiss in Japan.
9. Queen of England has three sons and one daughter.
10. The most popular alcohol in Mexico is tequila.
11. The Brazilian women know how to dance to samba.

Complete the following dialogues with A, SOME, THE or Ø.

1. A: Excuse me, can I have _____ information?
B: Yes, of course.
A: Does _____ train cost \$3 or \$4?
B: It is \$4.
2. A: I have _____ problem. Can you give me _____ advice?
B: What's wrong?
A: I don't like my roommate. She never washes _____ dishes.

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B: Just wash your own. Don't wash hers.

3. A: I need to buy _____ medicine. I have _____ cold.

B: Maybe you should see _____ doctor.

A: Oh no! I hate _____ doctors.

4. A: I think you gave me _____ wrong change.

B: Really. How much do I owe you?

A: \$2 more.

B: Wow! I'm sorry. I think that I need _____ break.

5. A: I need _____ change.

B: What do you need?

A: Change for \$5.

B: Sorry, I just spent all my change on _____ lunch.