

## Table of Articles

NUMBER	INDEFINITE	DEFINITE
Singular	<u>a / an</u>	the
Plural	nothing	the
Non-Count	nothing	the

## Quick Hints

- a before consonants (**a** book)  
an before vowels (**an** exam)
- **Pronunciation** is what matters.  
**an** hour ('h' is silent and it's pronounced: **an our**)
- **Temporary illnesses:** (I have **a** headache, **a** cold, **a** fever, a backache)
- **"The"** with **superlative forms** (He is **the** smartest kid I have seen.)

# Some Rules using Articles

## Singular count nouns:

- indefinite: use 'a'
- definite: use "the"

My daughter wants to buy **a** dog this weekend. (Indefinite-Could be any dog)  
**The dog** in the backyard is very cute.(Definite-The one in the backyard)

He requested **a** puppy for his birthday.  
He wanted **the** puppy he played with at the pet shop.  
She ordered **a** hamburger without onions.  
Did you drink **the** coke I just ordered?

## Plural count nouns:

Use "the" or Nothing, never 'a'.

Come and look at **the** children. (definite)  
Children are always curious. (indefinite)  
She loves flowers. (indefinite)  
**The** flowers in her garden are beautiful. (definite)  
Do you like reading grammar rules?  
Do you like reading **the** grammar rules on this page?

## Non-count nouns:

Use "the" or nothing.

He has experience. (if indefinite or mentioned for the first time)  
He has the experience necessary for **the** job. (if definite or mentioned before)

**The** medicine **the** doctor prescribed had unpleasant side effects.  
Writing in a second language is especially challenging.  
Have you studied **the** history of South Africa?  
History reminds us that events repeat themselves.

# Definite Article THE Rules

## Adjectives as Nouns

When referring to a group of people by use of an adjective rather than a noun, use "the".

the elderly  
the rich  
the homeless

the disabled  
the sick  
the young

the unemployed  
the needy  
the restless

## Names of Countries

Some countries are preceded by "the", usually if the name is plural, contains an adjective, or includes "of".

The United States  
America  
Japan

The Soviet Union  
Russia  
China

The Republic of Congo  
Spain  
Mexico

## Cities and Streets use nothing

Chicago  
Highway 5

Fifth Avenue  
London

San Francisco  
Kennedy blvd.

## Rivers, Oceans, Seas, Groups of Mountains & Islands use "the"

the Amazon  
the Cascades

the Atlantic  
the Hawaiian Islands

the Mediterranean  
the Bahamas

## Numbers

Cardinal numbers(1,2,3) use nothing

World War 2  
Mission 1

Page 7  
Paragraph 5

Chapter 1  
Channel 6

Ordinal numbers (1st,2nd,3rd) use "the"

The Second World War  
the first mission

the seventh page  
the fifth paragraph

the first chapter  
the sixth channel

## Titles of People

When a title is given with a name, use nothing

President Mitchael

Queen Mary

Professor Scott

When a title is used without a name, use "the"

The president

the queen

the professor

## Schools

When a school has "of" in its title, use "the"

The University of Arizona

The University of London

Chapter 2

When a school does not have "of" in its title, use nothing

Lincoln High School

Arizona State University

Liverpool John Moores University

## Location versus Activity

When referring to an activity, use nothing  
I am going to school now.(activity-study)  
He is always on time for class. (activity-learn)

When referring to the location, use "the"

The meeting is at the school. (location-campus)  
They are remodeling the movie theater. (location-building)  
The new student had trouble finding the class. (location-classroom)

## Unique Objects - Use THE

the earth  
the moon

the human race  
the sun

the world  
the universe

## Part of a larger group, Use THE

- One of the students
- None of the students
- Both of the students
- All of the students