

| | |
|--|---|
| Name (in Romaji): | → |
| Student Number: | → |
| Class Day + Period (examples: Monday 2, Friday 3): | → |

ARTICLES (*A*, *An*, and *The*)

An **article** is used to identify a noun.

A or ***an*** is used before a singular noun that is not special or is just one of many. It can be used to answer, “What is it?” or “Who is it?”

- a cat
- a book
- a student
- a television show

Use *a* or ***an*** when there is a descriptive adjective.

- a black cat
- a good book
- a new student
- a funny television show

The is used to indicate a specific singular, plural, or non-count noun. It can be used to answer, “What (noun)?” or “Which one(s)?”

- the bag
- the bags
- the luggage

The is used when talking about specific places.

- I will study in the library after class.
- Will you go to the store for me, please?

The is also used with musical instruments.

- She can play the guitar very well.
- Mozart liked to include the oboe in his operas.

Take special care when using articles with place names.

Use ***the*** with the following:

- seas and oceans (the Atlantic Ocean)
- island groups (the Canary Islands)
- deserts (the Gobi Desert)
- mountain ranges (the Himalayas)
- rivers (the Colorado River)



Sometimes no article is needed.

- (1) With proper names: Ex: Mary, Oxford University, Family Mart
- (2) Special nouns in certain cases: Ex: at home, at school, at church, in jail, at work, directions (north, south, etc.), meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner), time (last night, last year)

Do not use articles with the following:

- continents, countries, states, counties, cities, towns, streets, lakes

SPECIAL USE CASES WITH ARTICLES:

Uncountable nouns are sometimes used like countable nouns.

- We'll take three coffees over here, please.
- I need a shampoo that's gentle.

Other general rules for using articles:

1. Don't use articles when talking about things in general. Ex: I love cats.
He is fascinated by airplanes.
2. Use **a** or **an** if classifying an occupation. Ex: I am a teacher.
3. Use **the** if there is only one in existence. Ex: Don't look directly at the sun.
4. Do not use articles when **some** or **any** are used. Ex: A: "Do you have some pens I could borrow?"
B: "No, I don't have any pens."
5. Do not use articles with possessives. Ex: That is my dictionary.

Examine the sentences and make sure you understand the use of articles:

- (1) This morning I saw a cat. The cat was sleeping.
- (2) I am eating an apple. The apple tastes delicious.
- (3) I went to the doctor today.
- (4) Water is necessary for life.
- (5) The water is clean and clear.
- (6) The waters here are too rough for swimming.
- (7) Wait for the paint to dry.
- (8) I spilled paint on my clothes.
- (9) Computers are expensive.
- (10) The computers are too old to use.



Articles Practice 1 -----

Write *a*, *an*, *the*, or an **X** (for no article) in the following blanks.

1. She is _____ artist.
2. We are _____ friends.
3. That is _____ book I sent you.
4. Those are not _____ flowers I sent you.
5. New York is _____ big city.
6. That is _____ interesting question.
7. That is _____ interesting information.
8. He sends me _____ email every day.
9. He is _____ big boy now.
10. He has been able to play _____ since he was two years old.
11. More _____ washing machines are sold each year than refrigerators.

Articles Practice 2 -----

Choose *the* or **X** before the following proper nouns:

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| _____ Joann | _____ September | _____ Philippines |
| _____ India | _____ United States | _____ Wednesday |
| _____ Clarks | _____ Pacific Ocean | _____ Mrs. Martin |
| _____ University of Texas | _____ Western Hemisphere | |

Articles Practice 3 -----

Choose *the* or **X** to fill in the following blanks:

1. _____ student is on his way to _____ school now.
2. Peter is going to _____ jail to visit his _____ friend.
3. I didn't go to _____ work today.
4. I stayed at _____ home.
5. I always eat _____ dinner by myself.
6. She had _____ dinner at _____ restaurant _____ last night.
7. _____ last week was _____ last week of our _____ vacation.

