

a (indefinite article)

Form	Use	Example
	singular countable nouns (not specific)	I need to get a new coat.

an (indefinite article)

Form	Use	Example
	instead of a when the next word begins with a vowel sound	I don't have enough money for an expensive dress.

Watch out!

Whether we use a or an with a word depends on the sound, not the spelling. Be careful with the following words and phrases.

- an honest person • an hour • a euro • a uniform

the (definite article)

Form	Use	Example
	singular countable nouns (specific)	Let's go to the new shopping centre.
	plural countable nouns (specific)	Where are the books I ordered?
	uncountable nouns (specific)	I gave the shop assistant the money and then left.

No article (zero article)

Form	Use	Example
	plural countable nouns (general)	Prices have gone up a lot recently.
	uncountable nouns (general)	Fresh fruit is really good for you.

Special rules

Form	Use	Example
	places	the : seas (the Atlantic), rivers (the Amazon), areas (the Antarctic), some countries (the USA, the UK), public buildings (the theatre), the Earth, the world, the sky, the moon, the sun, the sea, the environment no article : towns and cities (Moscow), most countries (France), continents (Europe), streets (Baker Street), planets (Mars)
	activities	a/an : have a job, work as a ... the : on the radio, the media, play the piano no article : go to work, on TV, go shopping, play tennis, listen to music, go to work, go to school, be at school, be at university, school subjects (maths)
	time	the : in the morning/afternoon/evening, on the 20 th March, in the 1950s no article : days (Thursday), months (May), years (2009), at night
	people	the : the King, the Prime Minister, the army, the navy, the police, the Germans, the English no article : become king, he's English, speak English

A Complete using *a*, *an* or *the*.

- 1 We had really good science lesson at school today.
- 2 I found unusual insect on the wall outside our house.
- 3 It's your birthday next week. Are you going to have party?
- 4 We waited for hours, but we finally saw Queen.
- 5 Why don't we listen to radio?
- 6 Have you got euro I could borrow?
- 7 Mum has gone to bank, but she'll be back soon.
- 8 Where have you been? I've been waiting for over hour!

B Write an article in each gap where necessary. If an article is not necessary, put a dash (-).

I had (1)
 really bad day on (2) Tuesday.
 I bought (3) new game on CD-ROM for my computer,
 but (4) game didn't work properly. I took it back to
 (5) shop on (6) North Street, but
 (7) manager blamed me! He pointed to
 (8) scratch on (9) CD-ROM
 and said I'd done it. I couldn't believe it! I had
 to buy (10) new one!

C Circle the extra word in each sentence.

- 1 Do you think we will ever send a person to the Mars?
- 2 When you go to the London, don't forget to see the London Eye.
- 3 When we use the cars, we damage the environment.
- 4 I'm not telling a lies! It's the truth.
- 5 I'm looking for a teacher who can teach me the German.
- 6 Ray needs a warm hat and a new coat for his visit to the Russia.
- 7 Dad has gone to a work and forgotten the car keys.
- 8 Some people have an unusual pets, such as lions or tigers.

D In each sentence there is a word missing. Put an arrow (↑) to show where the missing word should go and write the word.

- 1 English music was popular in America in 1960s.
- 2 Would you prefer to read book or watch television?
- 3 We had maths at school yesterday and our teacher gave us surprise test!
- 4 Peter joined police and caught ten thieves in his first month!
- 5 Gordon wanted to be writer, so he studied English at university.
- 6 Suddenly, two UFOs appeared in sky over Washington.

E Rewrite the sentences correctly, adding articles where necessary.

- 1 We had great time in USA.
.....
- 2 Let's go to Belgium for week this summer.
.....
- 3 Where's money I gave you on fifteenth of last month?
.....
- 4 I'd like to join army and become soldier.
.....
- 5 For Christmas, I got book, DVD and latest CD by my favourite band.
.....
- 6 They say that English drink lot of tea.
.....
- 7 I heard song on radio that I really liked.
.....
- 8 Do Japanese and other people in Asia eat cheese?
.....

F Underline ten mistakes in the dialogue and correct them.

Gary: It's the lovely day, isn't it? Let's walk down to a shops and look around.

Helen: That's an good idea. I'll just have a look in a kitchen and see what we need.

Gary: I got a milk yesterday, so we don't need any more. We might need a bread, though.

Helen: Okay. Bread ... oh, and the packet of sugar. After shopping, we could go to a new market in a town centre and see what they have.

Gary: Right. You get your coat and I'll get a car keys.