ARTICLES

1 *a/an*

A What's this? B It's **a** photo of my daughter. (5 37)
A What do they do? B Jim's **a** doctor. Sally's **an** engineer.
A How often do they have classes? B Three times **a** week.

2 *the*

Can you close **the window**, please?
Can you check their address on **the internet**?
It's **the best** restaurant I know.

3 *a* or *the*?

Let's have a pizza. **The** pizzas are very good here.

4 no article

Men are usually more interested in sport than **women**.
She's **my mother's cousin**. That's **Tom's chair**!
Jim goes to **school** by **bus**.

1 We use *a / an*
- to say what something is or what job people do.
- in expressions of frequency.

2 We use *the*
- when the speaker and hearer know the thing we are talking about: *Close* ***the window***. = the one that is open.
- when there is only one of something: *the internet, the sun*, etc.
- before superlative adjectives: *the biggest, the best*, etc.

3 We often use *a* the first time we mention a person or thing and then *the* the next time because it is now clear who or what we are talking about.

4 We don't usually use *the*
- when we talk about people or things in general:
  Men *are more interested in sport than* ***women***. (general)
  The women *in this class work harder than* ***the men***. (specific)
- before possessive *'s*. *She's my mother's cousin.* **NOT** ~~*She's the my mother's cousin.*~~
- with the following:
  meals: *breakfast, lunch, dinner*, etc.
  places: *work, school, university, bed, home*, etc.
  by **+ transport**: *go by car, travel by train*, etc.

Now let's practise!

a Circle the correct word or phrase.

How much time do you spend on *internet* / *the internet*?
1 My brother is *at university* / *at the university* studying Maths.
2 I'd like *cup of tea* / *a cup of tea*, please.
3 We're going to visit my aunt *at weekend* / *at the weekend*.
4 We have English classes *twice a week* / *twice week*.
5 I love reading *novels* / *the novels*.
6 Yolanda is *best* / *the best* student in our class.
7 My mum's *lawyer* / *a lawyer*.
8 He's *the man* / *a man* that I told you about yesterday.
9 Can you open *a door* / *the door* for me, please?
10 He had *breakfast* / *the breakfast* late this morning.

b Complete with *the, a / an*, or –.

I'm going to buy *a* new laptop next week.
1 What time do you finish ___ work?
2 We usually go to the cinema once ___ month.
3 ___ children behaved very badly yesterday.
4 Lorena doesn't like ___ dogs.
5 I want to be ___ engineer when I finish studying.
6 ___ sun came out so we went for a walk.
7 Can you pass ___ salt, please?
8 My mum chose ___ most expensive dessert.
9 Last year we went on holiday by ___ train.
10 This is Joanne. She's ___ very good friend.

