

Read the rules and do the exercise below.

ARTICLES

a / an	the	No article
1) with countable nouns in the singular in a general sense: A man and a boy are on a bus.	1) with the words when it is clear which thing we mean: He is in the garden.	1) with uncountable nouns: We bought bread, milk, cheese and meat.
2) 'a/an' is used for the first mention of an item, followed by "the" for the second mention of the item: They took a train to Reno. The train was very clean and comfortable.		2) with meals: I had a sandwich for breakfast. She has lunch at school.
3) with names of jobs: He is an artist.	3) with the adjectives in the superlative degree: This is the nicest day in my life.	3) with games and sports: She plays tennis.
4) with a predicate noun: There is a table in the room. It was a nice trip.	4) to refer to things that are unique: the sun, the moon, the world	4) with names of people: Charles Dickens
5) instead of 'one': a hundred Wait a minute!	5) with ordinal numerals: on the second floor	5) with the names of days and months: on Monday in May
6) instead of 'every' naming units of time: We have 7 lessons a day.	6) with musical instruments: the piano, the guitar	6) for general ideas: I like pop music. Food is necessary.
7) with 'few' and 'little' in the meaning 'some at least': a few friends	7) with adjectives, to refer to a whole group of people: the Italians, the poor	7) with names of languages and science: Latvian, English, history ! but the English language
8) with 'piece / bar / bottle / cup / loaf / glass of' + uncountable noun: a piece of cheese a bar of chocolate	8) with decades, or groups of years: John grew up in the sixties. Jazz became popular in the 1920's.	7) in some expressions: in case on foot by car / train from time to time in fact at hand at school at home at work go to bed / to hospital go home at midnight / at night on TV
9) in some expressions: half an hour it is a pity it is a shame as a result have a good time in a hurry for a long time to take a walk to go for a walk	9) with 'only' in the meaning of 'vienīgais': He is the only child in the family.	
	10) with names denoting the whole family: The Andersons moved to a new flat.	
	11) with names of the parts of the day: in the morning in the afternoon in the evening	
	12) in some expressions: at the moment by the way on the whole on the one hand on the other hand on the right / on the left on the radio	

ARTICLES WITH GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

the	No article
1) with the names of rivers, seas, oceans: the Thames, the Baltic Sea, the Atlantic Ocean	1) with the names of lakes: Lake Burtnieku
2) with mountain ranges: the Alps	2) mountains: Elbrus, Mont Blanc
3) with names of hotels, cinemas, theatres, museums: the Grand Hotel, the Royal cinema, the National Gallery	3) with names of towns, streets, squares, parks: Riga, High Street, Trafalgar Square, Hyde Park ! but the Hague / the High Street
4) with names of the 4 cardinal points: the North , the South, the East, the West	4) with names of airports, castles, stations, universities: Heatrow Airport Oxford University Edinburgh castle ! but the Palace of Westminster
5) countries in plural, kingdoms, unions, republics: the Netherlands, the USA, the EU	5) continent and countries: France, Canada
6) some bridges: the Brooklyn Bridge the Golden Gate Bridge	6) most bridges: Tower Bridge London Bridge
7) deserts: the Sahara	
8) names of ships: the Titanic	

Articles Exercise 1

Exercise based on the opening text in Thanks a Million.

Please complete the following exercise using a/an/the/0 (no article) in the underlined spaces where appropriate. Change capital letters to lower case letters at the beginning of a sentence if necessary.

Ms Parrot, (1) _____ most famous lady detective of (2) _____ twenty-first century, was born in (3) _____ United Kingdom in (4) _____ 1960s. Since then, she has been to many countries, including (5) _____ Portugal, Singapore and Australia, and has lived in (6) _____ northern hemisphere and (7) _____ southern hemisphere, as well as on (8) _____ equator. She has never been to (9) _____ Philippines or (10) _____ United States, but she speaks (11) _____ English, French and Portuguese. Like Sherlock Holmes, (12) _____ famous detective, she plays (13) _____ violin, and sometimes practises up to five times (14) _____ day. She is also (15) _____ only person in (16) _____ world to have performed Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture [a long piece of music] in one breath on (17) _____ recorder.

She has been (18) _____ detective for thirty years and claims that although many people think that being (19) _____ detective is (20) _____ piece of cake, detectives generally work very hard and it's not all fun and games. (21) _____ detective is someone who solves mysteries, and (22) _____ people who contact Ms Parrot have some very unusual problems. Little information is available about some of (23) _____ cases she has solved, but quite (24) _____ few of her most famous cases have attracted worldwide attention and she has been offered up to (25) _____ thousand dollars (26) _____ hour to help solve mysteries such as (27) _____ case of (28) _____ Australian owl in (29) _____ uniform. (30) _____ bird laid (31) _____ egg in (32) _____ European nest in less than (33) _____ hour after its arrival. What (34) _____ strange problem!

With great (35) _____ modesty, she has either declined such (36) _____ fee or donated (37) _____ money to (38) _____ poor, or to (39) _____ Grammar Survival Fund, believing that (40) _____ detective should use their skills for (41) _____ common good.