

9

Nouns / Word Formation / Articles



29 Listen and repeat. Then act out.



Indefinite article (A/An)

- **A/An** is used with singular countable nouns when we talk about them in general. *I can't find a taxi.* (Which taxi? Any taxi) **Some** is used instead of **a/an** with plural countable nouns. *There are some taxis at the taxi rank.* **Some** is also used with uncountable nouns. *Give me some sugar please.* **A/An** is often used after the verbs **be** and **have**. *She's a teacher.*
- **A/An** is used to mean **per**. *He works five days a week.* **A/An** is also used before **Mr/Mrs/Miss + surname** when we refer to an unfamiliar person. *There's a Mr Smith waiting for you.*
- **A/An** can also be used with: **money** (*a/one dollar*), **fractions** (*a/one quarter*), **weight/measures** (*an/one inch*), **whole numbers** (*a/one million*), **price/quantity** (*£1 a litre*), **frequency/time** (*twice a day*), **distance/fuel** (*50 miles a gallon*), **distance/speed** (*100 km an hour*) and **illnesses** (*a headache, a fever, have a cold, catch a cold, (a) toothache, (a) backache, a temperature*).
- We use **a/an + noun** meaning **only one** (*There's a pen on the desk.*) and **one + noun** when we want to emphasise that there is **only one** (*There's only one pen on the desk, not two.*).
- **A/An** is not used before an adjective if it is not followed by a noun. However, if the adjective is followed by a noun, we use **a** if the adjective begins with a consonant sound and **an** if the adjective begins with a vowel sound. (*It's a bike. It's blue. It's a blue bike.; It's a ball. It's orange. It's an orange ball.*)

18

Fill in the gaps with **a** or **an**.1 ...**an**... orange

2 big garden

3 old man

4 kind woman

5 impatient driver

6 soldier

7 eraser

8 exciting trip

9 nice car

19

Fill in: **a**, **an** or **some**.

- 1 Could you give me ...**some**... advice about how to lose some weight?
- 2 Would you like glass of milk?
- 3 Richard is eating out with colleagues this evening.
- 4 Suzanne goes to football practice twice week.
- 5 They saw white lion and elephant in the safari park.

- 6 Frank is going to hire DJ for his party.
- 7 Everyone was given piece of cake at the wedding.
- 8 Do you need more apples for the pie?
- 9 Rebecca is wearing colourful top and pair of jeans.
- 10 Phillip gave me useful information about applying to universities.

20 Fill in the gaps with **a**, **an** or **some**.

A: You know, there's 1) **an** excellent film on TV tonight. It's called *Iron Man* and it's about 2) inventor who becomes 3) superhero!

B: Sounds good. What time does it start?

A: It starts at 9.

B: OK, but I have to do 4) chores first.

A: Do you want 5) help with those chores?

B: No, I can manage. But what shall we eat tonight? Do you want to get 6) takeaway?

A: Yes, I'd love to have 7) Italian food from Fredo's, actually.

B: Great. We'll order from there later.

21 Fill in: **a**, **an** or **some** where necessary.

When David went to 1) a travel agent to ask for 2) information about cruises to South America he was given 3) brochure and told that if he wanted to go, he would have to make 4) booking as soon as possible, as the next cruise was leaving in 5) fortnight. He looked at the brochure and, after 6) thought, decided to go, provided he could make 7) arrangement with his boss to get 8) time off. He gave the travel agent 9) money as a deposit, then went to his office as he had 10) important work to do. After 11) hour or so, his boss came in and David asked him if he could take 12) three weeks off as he hadn't had 13) holiday for nearly 14) year. His boss was quite agreeable, though he had at first had 15) doubts about letting David go for such 16) long time. In the end, he agreed to give him 17) entire month off, and wished him 18) wonderful holiday.

Definite article (**The**)

- **The** is used with singular and plural nouns, and countable and uncountable ones, to talk about something specific or when the noun is mentioned for a second time. *Can you give me the book over there?* (Which book? The one over there; specific) (*Bob found a passport on the ground. He took the passport to the police station.* (the word 'passport' is mentioned for a second time))
- **The** can also be used with the words: **beach, cinema, coast, country(side), earth, ground, jungle, radio, sea, seaside, sky, theatre, weather, world**, etc. *What's the weather like today? We usually say 'television' without 'the'. I like watching TV. BUT Turn off the television.*
Note: *We've got a house near the sea. BUT Tom is at sea (he's sailing).*
- **The** is optional with seasons. *Where are you going in (the) summer?*
- We can use **a/an** or **the** before singular countable nouns to refer to a group of people, animals or things. *A/The tiger lives in the jungle.* (We mean all tigers.) **The** word 'man' is an exception. *Man is mortal.* (NOT: **The man**) We omit **a/an** or **the** before a noun in the plural when it represents a group.
Tigers are dangerous. (NOT: **The tigers** are dangerous.)