

articles: a / an, the, no article

a / an

- 1 It's a nice house.
She's a lawyer. ▶ 3.19
- 2 I saw an old man with a dog.
- 3 What an awful day!
- 4 I have classes three times a week.

- We use a / an with singular countable nouns:
 - 1 when we say what something is or what somebody does.
 - 2 the first time we mention a thing / person.
 - 3 in exclamations with *What...!*
 - 4 in expressions of frequency.

the

- 1 I saw an old man with a dog. **The dog** was barking. ▶ 3.20
- 2 **The bell** rang and my father opened **the door**.
The children are at school.
- 3 **The moon** goes round **the Earth**.
- 4 I'm going to **the cinema** tonight.
- 5 It's **the best** restaurant in town.

- We use *the*:
 - 1 when we talk about something we've already mentioned.
 - 2 when it's clear what we're referring to.
 - 3 when there's only one of something.
 - 4 with places in a town, e.g. *cinema, theatre*.
 - 5 with superlatives.

no article



- 1 **Girls** often learn to read earlier than boys.
Love is more important than **money**. ▶ 3.21
- 2 She's not at **home** today.
I get back **from work** at 5.30.
- 3 I never have **breakfast**.
I'm going to the theatre **on Tuesday**.
- 4 See you **next week**.

- We don't use an article:
 - 1 when we are speaking in general (with plural and uncountable nouns), e.g. *I love flowers*. Compare: *I love **the flowers** in my garden*. (= the specific flowers in that place)
 - 2 with some nouns, e.g. *home, work, school, church, after at / to / from*.
 - 3 before meals, days, and months.
 - 4 before *next / last + day, week, etc.*

a Circle the correct form.

- I love weddings / the weddings!
- 1 Jess is nurse / a nurse in a hospital. A hospital / The hospital is a long way from her house.
 - 2 What a horrible day / horrible day! We'll have to eat our picnic in the car / a car.
 - 3 My wife likes love stories / the love stories, but I prefer the war films / war films.
 - 4 We go to theatre / the theatre about once a month / once the month.
 - 5 I'm having dinner / the dinner with some friends the next Friday / next Friday.
 - 6 My boyfriend is chef / a chef. I think he's the best cook / best cook in the world.
 - 7 I'm not sure if I closed the windows / windows before I left the home / home this morning.
 - 8 In general, I like dogs / the dogs, but I don't like dogs / the dogs that live next door to me.
 - 9 I got to the school / school late every day the last week / last week.
 - 10 I think happiness / the happiness is more important than money / the money.

b Complete with a / an, the, or – (no article).

- A** What does the guidebook say about Pizzeria Marco?
B It says that it's a great restaurant.
- 1 **A** How often do you go to _____ gym?
B About three times _____ week. But I never go on _____ Fridays.
 - 2 **A** What time does _____ train leave?
B In 40 minutes. Can you drop me off at _____ station on your way to _____ work?
 - 3 **A** What _____ amazing dress!
B Thanks. I bought it in _____ sales _____ last month.
 - 4 **A** What's _____ most interesting place to visit in your town?
B Probably _____ castle. It's _____ oldest building.
 - 5 **A** What shall we do _____ next weekend?
B Let's invite Toni for _____ lunch. We could eat in _____ garden.
 - 6 **A** Do you like _____ cats?
B Not really. I prefer _____ dogs. I think they're _____ best pets.
 - 7 **A** Is your mum _____ housewife?
B No, she's _____ teacher. She's always tired when she finishes _____ work.
 - 8 **A** Have you ever had _____ problem in your relationship?
B Yes, but we solved _____ problem and we got married.
 - 9 **A** When is _____ meeting?
B They've changed _____ date. It's on _____ Tuesday now.

▶ p.31