Articles

Indefinite articles a an

- are used before singular countable nouns
- a is used before a singular noun beginning with a consonant
- an is used before a singular noun beginning with a vowel

Definite article the

- is used before singular and plural nouns when the noun is specific
- is used with nouns that are unique: the moon, the sun, etc.
- is used before the names of rivers, seas/oceans, mountain ranges, deserts and groups of islands: the Amazon, the Pacific, the Alps, etc.
- is used with superlative adjectives: the oldest, etc.
- is used with hotels, pubs, restaurants, cinemas, theatres: the Ritz Hotel, the Odeon, etc.
- is used when the place name contains of–phrase: the Statue of Liberty

Don't use the

- before proper nouns
- with continents, countries, towns, streets or lakes
- with names of mountains or islands
- before names of meals or games and sports

Let's practise

Complete with a, an or the where necessary.

1. What do you usually have for ___ dinner?
2. My dad is ___ very careful driver. He never exceeds ___ speed limit.
3. Mr Davis has been ___ accountant for ___ year.
4. 'How much are ___ bananas?' 'They are 90 cents ___ kilo.'
5. 'Where have you been?' 'I've been to ___ school.'
6. Drinking ___ milk with ___ honey and ___ lot of lemon juice is good for ___ sore throat.
7. My brother works in ___ office. ___ office is just around ___ corner.
8. Tom was so thirsty that he drank ___ whole bottle of mineral water.
9. We've never been to ___ Paris before. It's ___ first time we're visiting ___ France.
10. Listen! Jane is playing ___ flute. She is ___ very talented person.
11. What about taking ___ few days off in ___ April?
12. Mary has ___ old bike. ___ bike screeches.
13. John is ___ honest person. He always tells ___ truth.
14. There's ___ green apple on ___ kitchen table. Help yourself.
15. Have you ever been to ___ Himalayas?
16. ___ Tower of London is one of ___ most popular sights in ___ capital of ___ Britain.
17. We live in ___ Elm Street. It's not very crowded.
18. At 10.30 last night Lucy was getting ready for ___ bed.
19. Did you have ___ good time in ___ Canaries?

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