

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.