

# Articles and other words before nouns

*both/all; a/the; zero article*

In this unit you learn about using articles (**a** and **the**) before nouns. You also learn about using **both** and **all**, **every**, **other**, **another** and **no** before nouns.

## Some uses of **a** and **the**

You use **the** when

- it is clear which person or thing you are talking about:

***The street's** very empty tonight.  
I put **the keys** on **the fridge**.*

- there is only one of these people or things:

*I saw **the president** on TV yesterday.  
**The moon** is very bright tonight.*

You use **a** when

- you have not talked about something before:

*I saw **a good film** yesterday.  
I think I need **a new phone**.*

- you say what jobs people do:

*My brother's **a famous footballer**.  
She's training to be **a doctor**.*

Sometimes there is no article before a noun

|       |                                |              |                             |
|-------|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| She's | at work, at home               | I'm going to | work                        |
|       | in bed                         |              | bed                         |
|       | at school, college, university |              | school, college, university |
|       | in hospital                    |              | hospital                    |
|       | in prison                      |              | prison                      |
|       | in church                      |              | church                      |

BUT

|          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| She's at | <b>the</b> cinema         |
|          | <b>the</b> theatre        |
|          | <b>the</b> bank           |
|          | <b>the</b> post office    |
|          | <b>the</b> doctor's, etc. |

*My aunt's not very well. She's **in hospital**.*

*I'll be **at school** until 6 p.m. today.*

*Anna's going **to the cinema** this evening.*

### *Remember!*

*He goes **to school** at 8 a.m.*

*He gets **home** at 6 p.m.*

### **Words used to express quantity (how much)**

You use **both** and **all** before a plural noun. You only use **both** to describe two people or things.

*I watched two DVDs last night. They were **both** fantastic.*

*I really want to go to the party. **All** my friends will be there.*

*He spent **all** his money at the shopping centre.*

You use **every** before a singular noun.

*We go to Spain on holiday **every** year.*

You use **another** before a singular noun and **other** before a plural noun. You can use words like **some, any, many** and **lots of** before **other**.

*Would you like **another** drink?*

*Don't worry. There'll be **some other** people you know there.*

*Have you visited **any other** countries?*

### *Remember!*

**no** and **any**

*I **haven't got any** time to do my homework. (negative verb)*

*I've **got no** time to do my homework. (positive verb)*

## Exercise 1

Complete the sentences by writing one word in each gap.

- 1 Madrid is \_\_\_\_\_ capital of Spain.
- 2 It was <sup>a</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful morning. <sup>b</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ sun was shining.
- 3 There's \_\_\_\_\_ very pretty cat in the garden. I've never seen it before.
- 4 Her brother's in <sup>a</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ army and her sister's <sup>b</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ lawyer.
- 5 Is there \_\_\_\_\_ supermarket near here, do you know?
- 6 Could you turn off all \_\_\_\_\_ lights when you leave the room, please?

## Exercise 2

Choose the correct word or words.

- 1 What time do you go to **the work / work**?
- 2 I think you should go to **dentist's / the dentist's**.
- 3 Mark was ill and had to go to **hospital / the hospital**.
- 4 You look tired. I think you should go to **bed / the bed** early.
- 5 We often go to **the theatre / theatre** in London.
- 6 I need to go to **post office / the post office**.

## Exercise 3

For each question, tick the correct answer, as shown.

- 1 Does your little girl go to  
☐ the school yet?  
☒ school yet?
- 2 We wanted to see a new film, so we went to  
☐ the cinema.  
☒ cinema.
- 3 After school, I want to go to  
☐ the university in the United States.  
☒ university in the United States.
- 4 We have to get up early and drive to  
☐ airport.  
☒ the airport.
- 5 Last week we went to  
☐ theatre.  
☒ the theatre.

**Exercise 4**

Put each sentence into the correct order.

- 1 all / ate / my / my brother / food / .  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 like / those / dresses / both / I'd / .  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 see / my / I / weekend / parents every / .  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 house every / went / boys / the / to Josh's / day / .  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 all / broke / the chef / the / eggs / .  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 other / home / sister / my / is / at / .  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 5**

Complete the sentences by writing one word in each gap.

- 1 That coffee was so good! Could I have \_\_\_\_\_ cup, please?
- 2 I don't like him, but the \_\_\_\_\_ people in my class think he's OK.
- 3 I don't like this pen. Is there \_\_\_\_\_ one I can use?
- 4 This cake is delicious! May I have \_\_\_\_\_ piece, please?
- 5 The sun's so hot here. Let's cross to the \_\_\_\_\_ side of the road and walk under the trees.
- 6 This is very heavy. Please use \_\_\_\_\_ your hands to carry it.

**Exercise 6**

Complete the sentences by writing one word in each gap.

any | no | another | every | some | other

- 1 I don't have \_\_\_\_\_ money.
- 2 Could I borrow \_\_\_\_\_ money, please?
- 3 I don't like this cheese so much. I prefer the \_\_\_\_\_ one.
- 4 She gave a present to \_\_\_\_\_ child in the class.
- 5 There's coffee, but I'm afraid there's \_\_\_\_\_ milk.
- 6 This is a difficult exercise. May I have \_\_\_\_\_ five minutes, please?