

Articles: the, a/an or no article

A/an

We use **a/an** when we talk about something and we don't know which one, or it isn't important which one.

*I'd like **a** sandwich, please.*

What sort would you like? We've got cheese or chicken.

*Have you got **a** laptop?* (= any laptop. The speaker doesn't know which one.)

We use **a/an** when we talk about something for the first time.

*She's got **a** bicycle. **The** bicycle is blue.*

We also use **a/an** when we are talking about someone's job and when we mean 'one'.

*He's **an** actor. She's **a** teacher.*

***a** hundred people **an** hour*

The

We use **the** when we talk about something and the speaker and the listener know which one we are talking about.

*Would you like **the** cheese or **the** chicken sandwich?*

*Could I have **the** cheese sandwich, please?*

*Did you bring **the** laptop?* (= The speaker and the listener both know which laptop they are talking about.)

We use **the** when we talk about something for the second time.

*She's got **a** bicycle. **The** bicycle is blue.*

We also use **the** before ordinal numbers in dates, especially when we are speaking.

***the** third of January **the** tenth of May*

We use **the** when we talk about musical instruments.

*I play **the** piano. She plays **the** guitar.*

No article

In some cases, we do not use **a/an** or **the** with a noun.

We do not use articles with plural nouns or uncountable nouns in general, when we mean 'all'.

***Fruit** is good for you. ~~The fruit~~ is good for you.*

***Nurses** work in hospitals. ~~The nurses~~ work in hospitals.*

***Homework** is important.*

We do not use articles with names of people, cities, most countries, streets, languages or school subjects.

***Emily** lives in **Australia**.*

*My school is on **Oaktree Road**. My school is on ~~the Oaktree Road~~.*

*I speak **Russian**. I speak ~~the Russian~~ She understands **Arabic**.*

*I study **maths**. I study ~~the maths~~. I enjoy **physics**.*

*7 Complete the sentences to describe these jobs.

architect doctor dentist farmer hairdresser mechanic
waiter police officer shop assistant

► Doctors help sick people to get better.

1 _____ repair cars and lorries.

2 _____ cut people's hair.

3 _____ grow food and look after animals.

4 _____ catch criminals and protect people.

5 _____ serve food and drinks in restaurants.

6 _____ design houses and other buildings.

7 _____ sell products in shops.

8 _____ look after people's teeth.

8 1.3 Read the information, then listen and repeat the words.

A, an and the are normally not stressed. They have 'weak' vowel sounds.	
a = /ə/ before a consonant sound	a concert a postcard
an = /ən/ before a vowel sound	an actor an exam
the = /ðə/ before a consonant sound	the market the radio the university
the = /ði/ before a vowel sound	the airport the umbrella

9 1.4 Tick (✓) the correct sound. Listen and check. Then listen and repeat.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ► ___ new coat
/ə/ ☒ /ən/ ☐ | 5 ___ amazing game
/ə/ ☐ /ən/ ☐ |
| 1 ___ easy question
/ə/ ☐ /ən/ ☐ | 6 ___ important point
/ðə/ ☐ /ði/ ☐ |
| 2 ___ first prize
/ðə/ ☐ /ði/ ☐ | 7 ___ small problem
/ə/ ☐ /ən/ ☐ |
| 3 ___ brilliant film
/ə/ ☐ /ən/ ☐ | 8 ___ usual song
/ðə/ ☐ /ði/ ☐ |
| 4 ___ old school
/ðə/ ☐ /ði/ ☐ | |

10 Circle the correct word.

- 'I'd like a / the drink.' 'Water or juice?'
- 'There are some books and a magazine.' 'Can I read a / the magazine?'
 - My dad is an / the engineer.
 - The fridge is in a / the kitchen.
 - 'Can I borrow a / the pen?' 'Yes. Would you like blue or black?'
 - 'Is there a / the computer in your classroom?' 'No, there isn't.'
 - 'Can I have a / the banana?' 'Sorry. That banana is for your dad.'
 - 'I'm reading a new book.' 'What is a / the book about?'
 - 'Where is a / the car?' 'It's over there.'
 - 'How long is the journey?' 'An / The hour and fifteen minutes.'
 - I don't know an / the answer to this question.

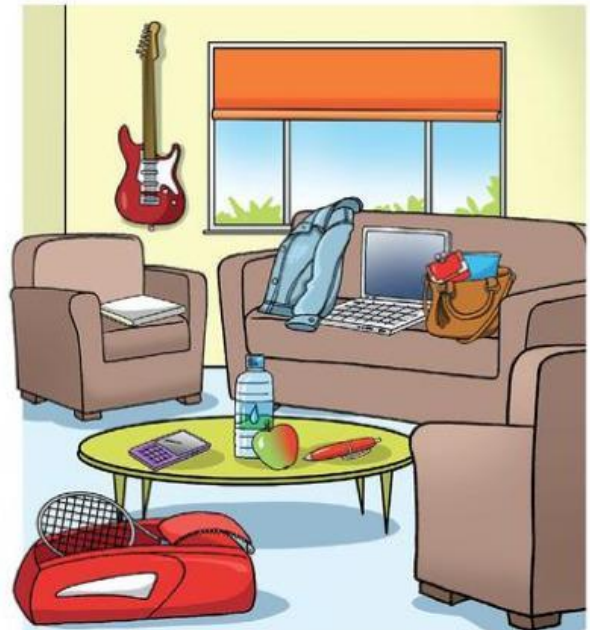
11 GAME Look at the picture below for one minute. Cover the picture, then ask and answer questions about these things with your partner.

apple banana brown bag blue book
bottle of water cat computer guitar
jacket lamp red bag red pen phone
purse television tennis racket white book

Is there an apple?

No, there isn't a banana.

Yes, there is an apple.
The apple is on the table.
Is there a banana?



12 1.5 Number the sentences from 1 to 6. Then listen and check.

- On the desk is a computer and next to it is a lamp.
- There is a big bedroom and a small bedroom.
- The computer has a webcam.
- 1 My house has got two bedrooms.
- I use the webcam when I talk to my cousin in Australia.
- The small bedroom belongs to me and it has got a small bed, a desk and a wardrobe.

13 Complete the sentences with *the* or – (no article).

- ▶ We normally eat _____ pasta twice a week.
- The summer holiday starts on _____ tenth of July.
 - We make _____ paper from _____ wood.
 - Don't look directly at _____ sun. It's dangerous.
 - Was _____ fish good yesterday?
 - Mike speaks _____ German and _____ Turkish.
 - We have _____ science at eleven o'clock on Mondays.
 - Which shoes do you prefer? I like _____ red ones.
 - Jill plays _____ piano beautifully.
 - Mary lives on _____ Bridge Road.
 - Do you have _____ sugar in your coffee?

14 **1.6** Listen and complete the table.

Use *a, an, the* or – (no article).

Date of birth	<i>the seventh</i> of August
Address	Avenue
Parents' jobs	father is _____ mother is _____
Favourite subjects	_____
Musical instrument	plays _____
Future plans	to be _____

15 Work in pairs. Ask your partner questions and write the information in the table.

Date of birth	
Address	
Parents' jobs	
Favourite subjects	
Musical instrument	
Future plans	

When were you born, vicky?

On the twelfth of September.

16 Write about your partner, using the information from exercise 14.

*vicky was born on the twelfth of September.
She lives at ...*

17 **1.7** Complete the dialogue with *a, an, some, the* or – (no article). Then listen and check.

- Henry** How are you, Paul?
- Paul** I've got *an* exam next week, so I'm a bit nervous.
- Henry** You aren't normally nervous.
- Paul** I know, but I want to become ¹ _____ doctor, so ² _____ exam is very important.
- Henry** Really?
- Paul** Yes, it's the most important subject for ³ _____ doctors.
- Henry** So, are you studying hard?
- Paul** Yes. I'm doing ⁴ _____ revision at the moment. But I've got ⁵ _____ problem. My cousins from ⁶ _____ Australia are going to be here for a week and I want to spend some time with them.
- Henry** When do they arrive?
- Paul** On ⁷ _____ seventh. The day before ⁸ _____ exam. What do you think? Are ⁹ _____ exams more important than ¹⁰ _____ families?
- Henry** That's difficult. You need to talk to your parents.

Self-evaluation Rate your progress.

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