

ADVANCED 3 UNIT 5

GRAMMAR

A/an, some, the: general rules of use

If something is **unknown** to the speaker, the listener, or both, use **a/an, some, or no article**. Use a/an with singular countable nouns. Use some or no article with uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns

If something is **known** to both the speaker and listener, use **the**: The apartment I saw yesterday was really nice.

If you are talking about **something in general** terms, use **a/an, some, or no article**: I love spaghetti.

If you are talking about a **specific** person or thing, use **the**: I loved the spaghetti we had last night. When there is only one, use **the**: the world, the North, the economy

Definite article **the**: some special cases:

- use with an adjective to talk about a group of people: the rich, the British
- use with household chores: the cooking, the cleaning, the shopping

No article: do not use the:

- to talk about meals as part of a routine: What do you have for breakfast?
- to talk about transportation with by: I usually go by car.
- with last or next in time expressions referring to the immediate past or future: I slept well last night.
- with points of the compass used as adverbs: He traveled north.

Articles

Use **a/an** before singular nouns

a bed / **an** idea

I need **a** room.

Use **some** / no article before plural and uncountable nouns

things / **some** things
furniture / **some** furniture

I need (**some**) money.

Use **the** before singular, plural, and uncountable nouns

the bed / **the** idea / **the** furniture / **the** things

I'm very pleased with **the** drapes.

How much is **the** rent?

1 Complete the sentences with **a, an, the**, or put a cross (x) if no article is necessary.

- a What time do you have ___ dinner? When did you last go out for _____ special dinner?
- b Do you ever travel by ___ train? When did you last take ___ train?
- c When is _____ next long weekend? What are you doing ___ NEXT WEEKEND?
- d What is your view of ___ internet shopping? How often do you use ___ internet?
- e What is the countryside like ___ north of your town? What is it like in ___ north of your country?
- f Do you think _____ English are friendly? Why do you want to learn _____ English?

2 Select the alternative in each sentence which is not possible.

- a I'd like a (coffee / cake / juice / beer / bread / chocolate), please.
- b I might go to the (bank / movies / gym / theater / store / work) after class.
- c This time tomorrow I'll probably be at (school / college / grocery store / home).
- d I would be interested in working for the (army / police / business / media / government / press).
- e I don't like (rock music / jazz / 17th-century Italian classical music / music of Beethoven).
- f Most of the (people I know / people / people in my country / people here) speak English.
- g I love (the pasta / fresh pasta / the pasta you make / all kinds of pasta).