

Articles and Determiners Objective

1. Articles

a / an / the

There are only three articles in English: indefinite 'a', 'an' and 'the' and definite – 'the'.

Indefinite articles – 'a' and 'an'

"a" and "an" are the indefinite articles. They refer to something not specifically known to the person you are communicating with.

"a" and "an" are used before nouns that introduce something or someone you have not mentioned before.

I saw an elephant this morning.

I ate a banana for lunch.

"a" and "an" are also used when talking about your profession.

I am an English teacher.

I am a builder.

Use a when the noun you are referring to begins with a consonant. For example, "a city" and "a factory"

Use an when the noun you are referring to begins with a vowel. For example, "an apple" and "an idea" - except when a vowel sounds like a consonant.

For example: "an umbrella" but "a university" or "an open door" but "a one-dirham coin"

Definite Article – 'the'

a. Use the when you know that the listener knows or can understand the particular person or thing you are talking about.

The apple you ate was rotten. Did you lock the car?

b. Use the when you have already mentioned the thing you are talking about.

She's got two children; a girl and a boy. The girl's eight and the boy's fourteen.

c. We use 'the' to talk about geographical points on the globe. For example, "the North Pole" and "the equator"

We usually use no article to talk about things in general – "the" doesn't mean all.

Books are expensive. = (All books are expensive.)

The books are expensive. = (Not all books are expensive, only the ones I'm talking about.)

Common problems of Arabic students with articles:

- Using incorrect articles with countable and uncountable nouns. The most common errors are "the informations " and "the works/ homeworks."
- Using an article when none is necessary.
- Do not use an article before nouns when talking in general terms. For example: "The Inflation is rising." and "The People are worried about rising crime." (Note! People generally, so no article)
- Do not use an article when talking about sports. For example: "My son plays the football." and "The Tennis is expensive."
- Do not use an article before uncountable nouns when talking about them generally. For example: "The Information is important to any organization." and "The Coffee is bad for you."
- Do not use an article before the names of countries except where they indicate multiple areas or contain the words (state(s), kingdom, republic, union). No article - Italy, Mexico, Bolivia, England. Use the - the United Arab Emirates, the UK (United Kingdom), the USA (United States of America), the Irish Republic

2. Demonstrative adjectives (this/that/these/those)

Demonstrative adjectives indicate which one of something you are talking about. In English, there are different forms of the demonstrative adjective according to the number of items and where they are located.

	singular	plural
closer	this	these
farther	that	those

The demonstrative adjective is used directly in front of a noun - there is no article. For example: "this book" "that book" "these books" "those books"

Is this your book? No, that's mine over there.
Are these your sunglasses?
Whose pencils are those on the desk by the window?

other/another

"Other" and "another" refer to something different, remaining, or additional. They are placed before the noun. Another is used with singular nouns, other with singular or plural.

There are other jobs you could try. (You don't have to stick with this one)
Where's the other packet of cereal? (I know that there are two packets and I don't want this one)
Is there any other bread? (a different type of bread)
Have another cup of tea. (You have already finished one)

3. Possessive Adjectives (my/your/his/her/its/our/their)

A possessive adjective modifies a noun to show ownership. For example: "I'm Lynne. My name's Lynne." Possessive adjectives go before their nouns. "Lynne is my name."

	Singular			Plural		
Personal Pronoun	I	you	he, she it	you	we	they
Possessive Adjective	my	your	his, her, its	your	our	their

I have dark hair.
My hair is dark.

She has long hair.
Her hair is long.

They have short hair.
Their hair is short.

This is my cake – and you're not having any of it!
Is this your car? Or is it the other one?
Her father is very sick – she has to go to the hospital.
His sister is getting married this weekend.
Our house will be built in Ajman, next to the mosque.
Their son is studying at university in Australia.

Practice:

Choose the correct answer from a,b,c,or d:

1. She returned three of my six books yesterday and promised to bring_____ on Friday.

- a. other
- b. another
- c. others
- d. the others

2. We need two cars. You go in one and we'll take_____.

- a. others
- b. the others
- c. the other
- d. another

3. Some people prefer vegetables while _____ prefer meat.

- a. other
- b. another
- c. the others
- d. others

4. -Who gave you_____ books?

- a. that
- b. these
- c. they
- d. this

5. Would anybody like _____ piece of this cake?

- a. other
- b. another
- c. others
- d. the others

6. My cousins and I always enjoy doing the same things. _____ favourite activity is going camping.
- a. Our
 - b. Their
 - c. His
 - d. Her
7. I want to phone Mr. and Mrs. Dennis to say, 'thank you'. Do you have _____ phone number?
- a. they
 - b. their
 - c. them
 - d. theirs
8. _____ are my books not yours.
- a. This
 - b. That
 - c. These
 - d. Then
9. Can you give me _____ pen, please?
- a. that
 - b. those
 - c. these
 - d. there
10. You have got to buy _____ uniform for your new job.
- a. an
 - b. a
 - c. zero article (-)
 - d. the

11. Ahmed usually has _____ with his friends in the cafeteria.

- a. the lunch
- b. the lunches
- c. lunch
- d. a lunch

12. We need to buy _____ for our living room.

- a. chair
- b. some chair
- c. a chair
- d. a chairs

13. Asma and her cousins sometimes go abroad together. _____ favourite country is Holland

- a. Hers
- b. They
- c. She's
- d. Their

14. I use _____ new computer to write stories.

- a. me
- b. mine
- c. my
- d. I

15. -Princess Rania has become famous for her work with_____ children

- a. the
- b. a
- c. an
- d. zero article (_)