

# 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?