

USE OF THE ARTICLE

Definite article: the

When referring to something specific or already mentioned.

- in front of singular count nouns: *give the apple*
- in front of plural count nouns: *the apples (that) I bought*
- in front of uncountable nouns if they are specified: *the water from the top*

Other uses:

- in front of nationality names: *the Japanese..*
- with adjectives: *the poor, the blind....*
- with superlatives: *the most beautiful day*
- with names of newspapers: *the Times*
- with most countries, regions or groups of islands: *the USA*
- with mountain ranges: *the Alps*
- with hotels, pubs, restaurants, museums: *the British Museum...*
- with buildings and places containing the word: *The Bank of Ireland.*

Zero article

When making a general reference:

- general plural count nouns: *Children are noisy*
- uncountable nouns in general statements: *Coffee keeps me awake*
- abstract nouns: *Honesty is the best policy*

Other uses:

- with meal times: *Lunch is at 7*
- to hospital; by bus; at night; in summer; before breakfast; with flu'
- with most towns, cities, countries and islands: *Milan, Italy, Jamaica*
- with lakes and individual mountains: *Mount Etna.*
- with streets and squares: *First Avenue, Picadilly Square, Oxford Street,*
- with buildings, airports and institutions: *Padua University, Westminster Cathedral, John F. Kennedy Airport.*

Indefinite article: a/an

The indefinite article makes a general reference; any represent of a group.
Singular countable nouns mentioned for the first time:

- *Once upon a time there was a beautiful lady..*

Other uses:

- when talking about someone's job: *I work as a nurse.*
- with numerals: *three sisters and a son.*
- with numbers and fractions: *a third quarters*
- with expressions of time: *once a week*
- with exclamations: *What....! What a nice day!*