

## Articles

Three different types:

- zero
- indefinite
- definite

Yesterday I went to the shop and bought a bar of chocolate, two gallons of milk, some water and 14 tins of dog food. However, I didn't have enough money and had to borrow some off my sister to pay for it.

Article	Function	Examples
zero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>things in general, including countable and uncountable</i></li> <li>• <i>before proper nouns: - most countries</i></li> </ul>	<p>I love cycling. Monkeys are very badly behaved. French food is quite complicated. British food is underappreciated.</p> <p>Horses are very beautiful animals. Frogs are ugly animals.</p> <p>France Belarus Germany Poland Sri Lanka Mauritius Nigeria Turkey India Iran Uzbekistan Indonesia Somalia</p> <p><b>Some exceptions:</b></p> <p>The United Kingdom The Philippines The United Arab Emirates The United States of America The Ukraine / The Crimea The Arab peninsula The Yucatan peninsula</p>

		<p>(The Republic of) Ireland (The Kingdom of) Saudi Arabia</p>
	- <i>names</i>	<p>John Paul George Ringo Alain</p>
	• <i>languages</i>	<p>French Turkish English Scottish Portuguese English/French</p>
	• <i>sports/hobbies</i>	<p>Basketball is very exciting. Cricket is a perfect game. Football is the most popular sport in the world Cycling is fun and physically demanding. Horse riding is not always for rich people.</p>
	• <i>train stations</i>	<p>Victoria Euston Kings Cross Liverpool Street Goodge Street St Pancras Waterloo</p>
	• <i>before noun + number</i>	<p>Go to platform 10 for the Liverpool train. Go to bus stop 4 for the Stockport bus.</p>
	• <i>after prepositions in some situations:</i>	
	- <i>travel</i>	<p>Walking is the best way to travel. Going by bus is cheap. Cycling is cheap. Driving is a luxurious mode of travel.</p>

	<p>- <i>some times of day</i></p> <p>- <i>institutions (purpose)</i></p>	<p>People generally sleep at night. I saw an eagle at midnight. I am meeting my mum at midday/ noon.</p> <p><b>university</b></p> <p>My son is at university.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">- he is studying biochemistry</p> <p><b>prison</b></p> <p>My husband is in prison.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">- He is a convicted criminal.</p> <p><b>hospital</b></p> <p>My wife is in hospital.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">- She has an inflamed gallbladder.</p>
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## Exercise 1

Complete the gaps – is there a pattern with the articles?

1. I am studying ..... at the moment.
2. When I visit my sister, I go by .....
3. ....is my greatest passion.
4. Our train leaves from ..... at .....
5. You should always lock your doors at .....
6. I took her to ..... last night because she cut her hand badly.
7. You should get off at .....and switch trains.
8. I hate .....

Article	Function	Examples
<p><b>indefinite - a / an</b></p> <p><b>a - consonant sound</b> <b>an - vowel sound</b></p>	<p>general singular - countable</p>	<p>I have a sandwich in my bag.</p> <p>I own a Porsche.</p> <p>Do you have a pen?</p>
<p><b>definite - the</b></p>	<p><b>specific</b> - countable or uncountable / plural or singular</p> <p><b>Specific - we both know it</b></p> <p><b>Unique - there is only one</b></p> <p><b>Old conventions - they date back to when there was only one in your neighbourhood.</b></p> <p><b>general singular</b></p>	<p>Can I have the pen back?</p> <p>Did you enjoy the coffee?</p> <p>Did you see the moon last night?</p> <p>Did you see the television programme about gorillas last night?</p> <p>The way he plays guitar is exciting.</p> <p>The smell that comes from the local tip on a Friday afternoon, especially when it is warm puts me off my dinner.</p> <p>I am going to the shop.</p> <p>Paul is in the pub.</p> <p>I am interested in cinema.</p> <p>I am in the cinema. I can't speak.</p> <p>The horse was overtaken by the car as the preferred mode of transport for most people in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p>

## Exercise 2

### Countable/Uncountable Nouns

water	vegetable	jealousy	table	fruit	roof	dining room	grass	tree	city
eczema	doughnut	beer	pencil	ink	art	painting	time	knee	

1. I'd love some ..... I'm so thirsty!
2. She suffers with .....
3. Yum. This is a delicious .....
4. I've bought ..... for ..... I will enjoy eating from it.
5. My daughter experiences extreme ..... when she sees friends playing with her toys.
6. In the garden we have lots of ..... and .....
7. I'd like to move to ..... in Spain next year.
8. .... Mona Lisa is ..... I love .....
9. Hurry! We don't have much .....
10. Do you remember ..... when we swam in the sea?

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## Answers

### Exercise 1

1. I am learning English at the moment.
2. When I visit my sister, I go **by** train / bus / car / **on** foot
3. **Medicine/Ballet** is my greatest passion.
4. Our train leaves from platform 3 at Victoria station.
5. You should always lock your doors at night.
6. I took her to hospital last night because she cut her hand badly.
7. You should get off at Euston and switch trains.
8. I love dancing.

### Exercise 2

1. I'd love some **water / beer**. I'm so thirsty!
2. She suffers with / from **eczema / jealousy** .
3. Yum. This is a delicious **doughnut**.
4. I've bought **a table** for the **dining room**. I will enjoy eating from it.
5. My daughter experiences extreme **jealousy** when she sees friends playing with her toys.
6. In the garden we have lots of **grass** and **trees**.
7. I'd like to move to **a city** in Spain next year.
8. The Mona Lisa is **a painting** I love **art**!
9. Hurry! We don't have much **time**!
10. Do you remember **the time** when we swam in the sea?