

## ARTICLES

### COUNTABLE

Singular: *a/the beach*

Plural: *the bananas/bananas*

**some, any, many, few**

### NOUNS

### UNCOUNTABLE

*I like music.* (no a/an)

**some, any, much, little**

A/AN – with singular countable nouns: *a beach a student an umbrella a university*

You cannot use singular countable nouns alone (without **a/my/the**): *I want a banana.* (NO: *I want banana.*)

You can use plural countable nouns alone: *I like bananas.* (in general)

### A/AN

- to say what kind of thing/person sth/sb is: *A dog is **an animal**. I am **an optimist**.*
- A + ADJECTIVE + NOUN: *Jack has got **a long nose**. This is **a beautiful house**.*
- to say what somebody's job is: *He is **a teacher**.*
- when we mentioned sth for the first time: *I had **a sandwich** and **an apple** for lunch.*  
***The sandwich** was not very good but **the apple** was very nice.* (we know which sandwich and which apple from the previous sentence)
- **once a week / three times a day / £1.10 a kilo**
- **tell a lie**

### THE

- when we are thinking of one particular thing: *Tom sat on **the chair nearest the door**. Did Ann get **the job she applied for**? I cleaned **the car** yesterday. (= my car)*
- when it is clear in the situation which thing or person we mean: *Can you turn off **the light**, please? (= the light in this room) I have been to the wedding. - **The bride, the groom and the cake** all look fantastic. (at one particular wedding)*
- **the bank, the post office**: *I must go to **the bank** to get some money.* (a particular bank or office) BUT: *Is there **a bank** near here?*
- **the doctor, the dentist**: *Carol is not very well. She has gone to **the doctor**.* (her usual doctor)
- **the city centre, the army, the police**: *Susan works in **the centre**. My brother is in **the army**.*
- when there is only one of sth: ***The Earth** goes round **the Sun** and **the Moon** goes round **the Earth**.*
- **the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_**: *the capital of France, the bank of England, the Tower of London*
- **the sky, the sea, the ground, the country, the environment**
- **the same**: *at **the same time**, Your pullover is **the same** colour as mine.*
- **the cinema, the theatre**: *I often go to **the cinema** but I have not been to **the theatre** for ages.* (we do not necessarily mean one particular cinema or theatre)
- **the radio, BUT television**: *I often listen to the radio and watch television.*
- nationality: ***the French, the British** (the people of that country), **a Frenchman, a Scot***
- + adjective: ***the young** (group of people who are young), **the disabled***
- musical instruments: *I play **the piano**.*
- with names of countries that consist of several parts – republic, kingdom, states  
***the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Dominican Republic***
- with the name of oceans, seas, rivers, canals: ***the Atlantic, the (River) Thames***

- with plural names of people and places: *The Taylors, The Netherlands, the Bahamas*
- with mountain ranges: *the Rocky Mountains, the Giant Mountains*
- *tell the truth*

#### ZERO ARTICLE

- **breakfast, lunch, dinner** – normally without article: *What did you have for breakfast?*  
- if there is an adjective before them, then you use a/an: *We had a very nice lunch.*
- before **noun + number**: *Platform 5, World War 2*
- with institutions (**prison, hospital, school, church, university**) – when we are thinking of the general idea of these places and what they are used for: *Ken is in prison for robbery. Jack had an accident last week. He was taken to hospital. When I leave school, I want to go to university. Ann goes to church every Sunday.*  
BUT: *Ken went to the prison to visit his brother.* (he went as a visitor, not prisoner), *Jill has gone to the hospital to visit Jack. Excuse me, where is the university?* (the uni buildings), *The workmen went to the church to repair the roof.*
- **bed, work** (*go to work/be at work/start work/finish work*), **home** (*go home/come home/arrive home, be at home*): *It is time to go to bed. Let's go home. Will you be at home tomorrow afternoon?*
- **sea** (*go to sea/be at sea*) = be on a voyage: *Keith is a seaman. He spends most of his life at sea. After finishing school, I will go to sea.* BUT: *I'd like to live near the sea.*
- when we talk about things or people in general: *I am afraid of dogs. Do you collect stamps? Doctors are paid more than teachers. Do you like Chinese food? Do you listen to classical music?*
- mountain and lakes: *Mount Everest, Lake Ontario*