

A / a n and one

We use **a** before words that begin with a consonant sound. Some words start with a vowel *letter* but begin with a consonant *sound*, so we use **a** before these words, too:

- **a** university (/əˈjuːn.../) **a** European (/əˈjʊər.../) **a** one-parent family (/ə wʌn.../)

We use **an** before words that begin with a *vowel sound*:

- **an** orange an Italian **an** umbrella

These include words that begin with a silent letter 'h':

- an hour **an** honest child
- an honour **an** heir (= a person who inherits money etc., when someone dies)

stand abbreviations said as individual letters that begin with A, E, F, H, I, L, M, N, O, R, S or X:

- **an** MP (/ɒn em piː/) **an** FBI agent (/ən ef biː aɪ.../) **an** IOU (/ən aɪ əʊ jəʊ/)

But compare abbreviations said as words:

- **a** NATO general (/ə neɪtəʊ.../) **a** FIFA official (/ə fiːfə.../)

We can use **a/an** before singular countable nouns (see also Unit 50).

Sometimes we can use either **a/an** or **one**:

- We'll be in Australia for **one** (or a) **year**.
- Wait here for **one** (or a) minute, and I'll be with you.
- She scored **one** (or a) **hundred** and eighty points.

Using **one** in sentences like these gives a little more emphasis to the number.

However, we use **one** rather than **a/an** if we want to emphasise that we are talking about *only* one thing or person rather than two or more:

- Do you want **one** sandwich or two?
- Are you staying just **one** night?
- I just took **one** look at her and she started crying.

We use **one**, not **a/an** in the pattern **one...other** / **another**:

- Close one eye, and then the **other**.
- Bees carry pollen from **one** plant to **another**.



We also use **one** in phrases such as **one day**, **one evening**, **one spring**, etc., to mean a particular, but unspecified day, evening, spring, etc.:

- Hope to see you again **one** day.
- **One** evening, while he was working late at the office ...

We don't use **one** when we mean 'any one of a particular type of thing':

- I really need **a** cup of coffee. (*not* ...one cup of coffee.)
- You can never find **a** paper clip in this office. (*not* ...one paper clip)

We also use **a/an**, not **one**, in number and quantity expressions such as:

- three times **a** year half **an** hour **a** quarter of **an** hour **a** day or so (= about a day)
- 50 pence **a** (= each) litre (notice we can also say '...for one litre')
- **a** week or two (= somewhere between one and two weeks; notice we can also say 'one or two weeks')
- **a** few a little **a** huge number of...

We use **a** rather than **one** in the pattern **a...of...** with possessives, as in:

- She's **a** colleague of mine.
- That's **a** friend of Bill's.

EXERCISES

56.1 Write **a** or **an** in the spaces. (A)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.....unreasonable decision | 8universal problem |
| 2.....unit of work | 9eucalyptus tree |
| 3.....honourable man | 10X-ray |
| 4.....UFO | 11T-shirt |
| 5.....happy girl | 12H-bomb |
| 6.....elephant | 13hospital |
| 7.....BBC programme | 14UNESCO worker |

56.2 Correct the sentences if necessary, or put a ✓. In which sentences are both **one** and **a/an** possible? (B & C)

- 1 I teach four days one week.
- 2 Jenny's baby is only one week old.
- 3 Have you got one match, please?
- 4 You won't believe this, but it cost over one thousand pounds.
- 5 One summer, we must visit Sweden again.
- 6 They cost \$10 one kilo.
- 7 I've known him for one year or so.
- 8 She's already written one novel since she retired.
- 9 Help! There's one mouse in the cupboard!
- 10 She's one cousin of the king's.
- 11 When you get to my age, you just take one day at a time.
- 12 Cross-country skiing is easy. Just put one foot in front of the other.
- 13 Can I have one little more rice?
- 14 One large quantity of petroJ escaped from the tank.
- 15 We hadn't got one baseball bat, so we had to use one tennis racket.
- 16 I had one last look around the house, locked the door, and left.



56.3 Which is correct or more likely, **a/an** or **one**? If both **a/an** and **one** are possible, write them both. (B&C)

- 1 It weighs over.....hundred kilos.
- 2 I only asked for.....pizza - I didn't want three of them.
- 3 I wouldn't allow.....child of mine to be treated in that way.
- 4 It only took us.....week to drive to Greece.
- 5 I've always wanted to own.....silver-coloured car.
- 6.....sandwich isn't enough. I usually eat four or five.
- 7 Policies differ from.....state to another.
- 8 Less than three quarters of.....hour later, she was home.
- 9 All of the competitors completed the race, with just.....exception.
- 10 She left home late.....morning and hasn't been seen since.
- 11 The best way to learn.....musical instrument is to find.....enthusiastic teacher.
- 12 Somewhere in the distance,.....bell rang.

The and a/an (1): 'the only one'

We use **a/an** with a singular noun when we describe someone or something or to say what type of thing someone or something is:

- English has become **an international language**.
- Sydney is **a beautiful city**.

But if we say that someone or something is *unique* - that there is only one, or that it is the only one of its kind - we use **the** (or sometimes **zero article**, i.e. no article), but not *a/an*:

- English has become **the** international language of business.
- Sydney is **the** capital city of New South Wales.

We use **a/an** to say what a person's job is, was, or will be:

- She was **a company director** when she retired.
- Against her parents' wishes, she wants to be **a journalist**.

However, when we give a person's job title, or their unique position, we use **the** or **zero article**, not **a/an**. Compare:

- She's been appointed **(the) head of the company**. *and*
- **I'm a production manager** at Fino. (= there may be more than one production manager)

After **the position of**, **the post of**, or **the role of** we use **zero article** before a job title:

- Dr Simons has taken on **the position of** Head of Department.

We use **the** before a *superlative adjective* (**the biggest**, **the most expensive**, etc.) when the superlative adjective is followed by a noun or defining phrase:

- **He is the finest young player** around at the moment.
- This painting's **the most unusual in the collection**.

However, we can often leave out **the**, particularly in an informal style, when there is no noun or defining phrase after the superlative adjective.

- A: Why did you decide to stay in this hotel?
B: **It was (the) cheapest**. / **It was the cheapest I** could find.

When **most** before an adjective means 'very' or 'extremely' we can use **a** (with countable singulars) or **zero article** (with plurals and uncountables) - rather than **the** - when there is no following noun. **Most** is used in this way particularly in a rather formal spoken style. In everyday conversation we generally use a word such as 'very' instead:

- He was **a most peculiar-looking** man. (= a very peculiar-looking man)
- **It was most expensive** petrol. (= extremely expensive)

We use **the** when we know that there is only one of a particular thing. For example:

- **the sun the world the North Pole the jet age the international market the travel industry the arms trade**

The same applies to the following things when we refer to them in a general way:

- **the weather the climate the human race the atmosphere the sea the public the environment the sky the ground the wind the future the past**

However, if we want to describe a particular instance of these we use **a/an**. Compare:

- She could hear **the wind** whistling through the trees outside. *and*
- There's **a cold wind blowing from the north**.
- What are your plans for **the future**? *and*
- She dreamt of **a future where she could spend more time painting**.

EXERCISES

- 571 Make sentences combining words from (i) and (ii). Add a connecting verb and a/an or the. If zero article is an alternative for the, write the /- . (A, B & C)

- i
- 1 Barcelona
 - 2 Javier Perez de Cuellar
 - 3 Le Monde
 - 4 France
 - 5 Ghana
 - 6 Wall Street
 - 7 Nelson Mandela
 - 8 The Great Wall of China
 - 9 Greenland

- ii
- a largest island in the world.
 - b member of the European Union.
 - c president of South Africa in 1994.
 - d—site-of-the-1992-Olympic-Games.
 - e only constructed object visible from space.
 - f important financial centre.
 - g newspaper published in France.
 - h republic in 1957.
 - i Secretary General of the UN from 1982 to 1991.

Example: 1 **Barcelona** was **the site of** **the** 1992 **Olympic Games**.

- 572 Put a/an, the or - in the spaces. If zero article is an alternative for the, write the /- . (B & C)



BOB COLLINS: A PROFILE

Bob Collins recently become (1)..... minister in the new government, being appointed (2) Minister for Industry. Mr Collins has had a varied career. He was (3)..... professional footballer in the 1960s, some people considering him to be (4)..... most skilful player of his generation. After a serious injury, he became (5) manager of (6)..... oldest pub in Edinburgh. Five years later, he was offered the position of (7)..... executive director of Arcon, one of (8) biggest supermarket chains in the country. He became (9)..... Member of Parliament in 1990.

- 573 If necessary, correct these sentences. (A-D)

- 1 Sri Lanka has the wonderful climate.
- 2 The organisation's aim is to educate the public about the dangers of smoking.
- 3 We need an environment free from pollution.
- 4 She has worked in a fashion industry since she left school.
- 5 The wind is blowing dust all the way from Africa.
- 6 We can look forward to a warm southerly wind this weekend.
- 7 The USA is a country with the high level of immigration.
- 8 How can we combine economic growth and respect for an environment?
- 9 Car exhaust emissions are having a major effect on a world's climate.
- 10 That's Terry - he's the third person on the right.
- 11 She has become the important figure in Norwegian politics.
- 12 It's a most important issue and we need to discuss it in detail.

The and a/an (2): 'things already known', etc.

We use **the** when we expect the listener or reader to be able to identify the thing or person we are talking about, and we use **a/an** when we don't. Compare these pairs of sentences:

- Helen's just bought **a house** in Wilson Street. *and*
- Helen's just bought **the house** in Wilson Street. (= the house for sale we have previously talked about)
- **A Korean student** in our class has had to go home. *and*
- **The Korean student** has had to go home. (= the Korean student we have previously talked about)
- There's **a bus** coming. *and*
- The bus is coming. (= it's the bus we are waiting for)
- There's **a woman** from the bank on the phone. *and*
- He's in a meeting with **the** woman from the bank. (= you know which woman I mean)

We also use **the** when it is clear from the situation which person or thing we mean:

- What do you think of **the** table? (= the table we are looking at)
- This tastes lovely. What's in **the** sauce? (= the sauce here on my plate)
- The tree looks beautiful now that it's spring. (= the tree here in the garden)

Study these examples:

- Dorothy took **a** cake and **an** apple pie to the party, but only **the** apple pie was eaten.

We say '**an** apple pie' when we first mention it, and '**the** apple pie' after that, when the listener or reader knows which apple pie we mean.

- There was a serious fire in **a** block of flats in Glasgow last night. **The** building was totally destroyed.

We say 'a block of flats' when we first mention it. We use '**the** building' because the listener (or reader) will know which building we mean.

Even if the person or thing hasn't been mentioned before, if the person or thing we mean can be understood from what has been said before, we use **the**:

- We had a good time on holiday. **The** hotel (= the hotel we stayed in) was comfortable, and **the** beach (= the beach we went to) was only ten minutes away.

Notice that fictional writing (novels, short stories, etc.) will often mention something for the first time with **the** to build up suspense, expectation, etc. For example, a story might begin:

- The woman opened **the** gate and looked thoughtfully at **the** house.

The is often used with nouns before a phrase beginning of... The of... phrase connects this noun to a particular thing or person:

- Pictures can help students learn **the meaning of new words**.
- The disease could have killed off half **the population of the country**.
- He was woken up by **the sound of gunfire**.

Compare these sentences with:

- Each new word has **a different meaning**.
- The country has **a rapidly expanding population**.
- He suddenly heard **a sound** like a gunshot.

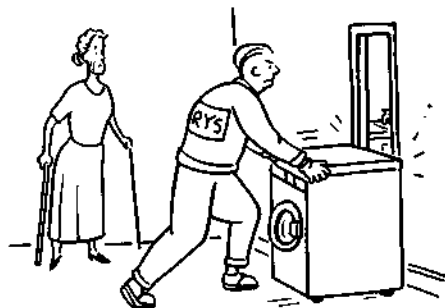
Some nouns are commonly used in the pattern **the...of...** to refer to a particular place, time, etc., including **back, beginning, bottom, end, middle, side, top**:

- **In the middle** of his speech he started to cough uncontrollably.

EXERCISES

581 *Decide if the most appropriate articles (a/an and the) are used in each of these texts. (A-D and Unit 57)*

- 1 Dan was playing outside in a street when he saw a red car go past driven by the teacher from his school.
- 2 A University has announced proposals to build a new library, to replace an existing one by the year 2005.
- 3 A: The car's been stolen from outside a house!
B: Oh, no. I left my wallet and the camera in it.
- 4 I must buy the tin opener. I keep having to borrow one from a woman next door.
- 5 A: Jane bought a fridge and a washing machine for her house, but the washing machine wouldn't go through a kitchen door so she had to send it back.
B: What did a shop say?
A: They offered to sell her a smaller one.
- 6 Now, when I start pushing a car, take your foot off the clutch. If it doesn't start then, I'll have to phone the garage.
- 7 We went out to the excellent restaurant last night. The food was delicious and the service was first class.
- 8 A: Where's a tea pot?
B: It's in the cupboard on the right.
A: I thought you had a blue one.
B: Yes, but it broke so I had to get the new one.
- 9 A: I've no idea what to get Mark for his birthday.
B: What about a new jumper?
A: Well...it's not the very interesting present.
B: Why don't you buy him a set of golf clubs he's always wanted?
A: What a great idea.
- 10 Dr Pike has developed a way to teach musical theory. A method is designed for children over five.
- 11 A: Who's a woman in red?
B: She's a journalist, I think. She works for a local newspaper.
- 12 Once, when I won the competition, I had to choose between a holiday in Disneyland and a Volvo. I chose a car, of course.



582 *Write a sentence beginning **The..of...**, with a similar meaning to the one given. (C)*

- 1 The telephone has had an enormous impact on how we communicate.
The impact of the telephone on how we communicate has been enormous.
- 2 The company has a complex management structure.
- 3 The drought had a severe effect on agriculture.
- 4 Picasso has had a substantial influence on modern art.
- 5 We should not underestimate how important Crogan's discovery is.
- 6 The bad weather meant that the bridge wasn't completed on time.

We use **some** in affirmative sentences and questions with plural and uncountable nouns when we talk about limited, but indefinite or unknown, numbers or quantities of things:

- **Some furniture** arrived for you this morning. (*not* Furniture arrived...)
- Would you like to hear **some good news**? (*not* ...to hear good news?)

When you use it in this way, you pronounce **some** with its weak form /səm/.

We also use **some** to talk about particular, but unspecified, people or things:

- **Some teachers** never seem to get bored with being in the classroom. (= but not all)
- I enjoy **some modern music**. (= but not all)

When you use it in this way, you pronounce **some** with its strong form /sʌm/.

We use **zero article** with uncountable and plural nouns when we talk generally about people or things. Compare the sentences in A above with:

- ! • I always like getting **good news**. (= good news in general)
- ! • **Furniture** is a costly item when you are setting up a home. (= furniture in general)
- ! • **Teachers** like having long holidays. (= all teachers)
- ! • I enjoy **modern music**. (= modern music in general)

Compare also:

- We need food, medicine, and **blankets**.
(appeal after earthquake) *and*
- There are **some old blankets** in the wardrobe.
Shall I throw them out?
- A post office is a place where you can buy **stamps**. *and*
- I'd like **some stamps**, please.



We sometimes use **some** or **zero article** with very little difference in meaning:

- 'Where were you last week?' 'I was visiting (**some**) friends.'
- Before serving, pour (**some**) yoghurt over the top.
- It'll be cold up in the hills, so bring (**some**) warm clothes.

It makes little difference whether we are referring to particular friends (with **some**) or friends in general (with **zero article**); or whether we are referring to a limited but indefinite amount of yoghurt (with **some**) or yoghurt in general (with **zero article**).

Some is used before a number to mean 'approximately':

- **Some** 80% of all those eligible took part in the vote. (= approximately 80%)
- There were **some** 20,000 people at the protest march. (= approximately 20,000)

When it is used in this way, **some** is usually pronounced /sʌm/.

When we want to emphasise that we can't say exactly which person or thing we are talking about because we don't know or can't remember, we can use **some** instead of **a/an** with a singular noun. When it is used in this way, **some** is pronounced /saɪtli/:

- I was asked a really difficult question by **some student** in class two.

We use the phrase **some (thing) or other** in a similar way:

- I bought them from **some shop or other** in the High Street. (*not* ...from a shop or other...)

EXERCISES

59.1 Put some in the spaces where necessary. If no word is needed, write -. (A, B & E)

- 1 I read about his death in *The Post*, but.....newspapers didn't report it at all.
- 2 My uncle bought.....valuable new stamps for his collection.
- 3 It is now known that.....cigarettes can seriously damage your health.
- 4 Don't disturb me. I've got.....really difficult homework to do.
- 5 I know that.....parents work so hard they don't have time to talk to their children, but Roy and Amy aren't like that.
- 6 My hobby is making.....candles.
- 7 As we all know,.....air is lighter than water.
- 8 Did you hear that.....monkeys escaped from the zoo last night?
- 9 I prefer cooking with.....oil, as it's better for you than.....butter.
- 10 We first met in.....restaurant in London, but I can't remember what it was called.
- 11 Although most left early,.....students stayed to the end of the talk.
- 12 I don't think I've ever met a child who doesn't like.....chips.

Look again at the sentences where you have written some. If these were spoken, which would have the strong form of some /sʌm/ and which the weak form /səm/?

59.2 Add some to these sentences where necessary, or put a ✓ if they are already correct. (A & B)

- 1 Can you smell gas?
- 2 Medicines can be taken quite harmlessly in large doses.
- 3 I can't drink milk. It makes me feel ill.
- 4 Water is a valuable commodity. Don't waste it!
- 5 You should always keep medicines away from children.
- 6 Do you like my new shirt? It's made of silk.
- 7 'I'm really thirsty.' 'Would you like water?'
- 8 There are people here to see you.
- 9 Books for young children are rather violent and not suitable for them at all.

59.3 Decide whether the following phrases mean approximately the same thing (write **same**), or mean something different (write **different**). (A, B & C)

- 1 I bought *some oranges* / *oranges*, but forgot to get the apples you asked for.
- 2 *Some sports clubs* / *Sports clubs* do not allow women members.
- 3 There are *some examples* / *examples* of this on the next page.
- 4 *Some wild animals* / *Wild animals* make very good pets.
- 5 *Some metal alloys* / *Metal alloys* made nowadays are almost as hard as diamond.

59.4 Write four sentences about your country using some to mean 'approximately'.(D)

Example: Some 10 per cent of the population goes (or go) to university.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

The, zero article and a/an: 'things in general'

In generalisations we use **zero article**, but not **the**, with *plural* or *uncountable nouns*:

- Before you put them on, always check your shoes for **spiders**.
- **I'm** studying **geography** at university.
- I can smell **smoke!**

When we use **the** with a plural or uncountable noun, we are talking about specific things or people:

- **The books** you ordered have arrived.
- All **the information** you asked for is in this file of papers.

Compare these pairs of sentences:

- **Flowers** really brighten up a room. (= flowers in general) *and*
- **The flowers** you bought me are lovely. (= particular flowers)
- **Industry** is using computers more and more. (= industry in general) *and*
- **The tourism industry** is booming in Malaysia. (= a particular industry)
- Children should be given a sense of how **business** works. (= business in general) *and*
- **The aerospace business** actually lost \$6 billion this year. (= a particular business)
- She's an expert on **Swedish geology**. (= among other Swedish things) *and*
- She's an expert on **the geology of Sweden**. (= specifically of Sweden) (see also Unit 58D)

We can use **the** with a *singular countable noun* to talk about the general features or characteristics of a class of things or people rather than one specific thing or person. In

- Nowadays, photocopiers are found in both **the office** and **the home**.

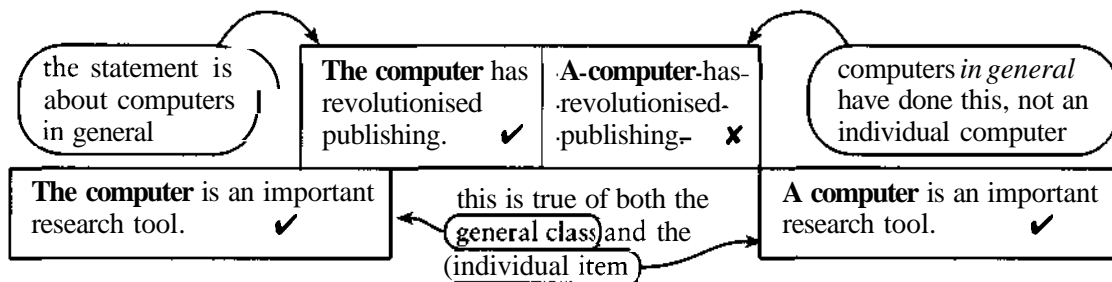
we are talking about *offices* and *homes* in general rather than a particular *office* and *home*.

Notice that we could also say 'in both **offices** and **homes**' with little difference in meaning.

Compare the use of **the** and **a/an** in these sentences:

<i>talking about a general class</i>	<i>talking about an unspecified example</i>
The novel is the most popular form of fiction writing. (<i>or Novels are...</i>)	Reading a novel is a good way to relax. (<i>or Reading novels is...</i>)
The customer has a right to know where products are made. (<i>or Customers have...</i>)	When the phone rang, I was busy serving a customer .

- Study the use of **the** and **a/an** in these sentences:



Notice that when we define something we generally use **a/an** rather than **the**:

- A Geiger counter is a device for detecting and measuring the intensity of radiation.
- A corkscrew is a gadget for getting corks out of bottles.

EXERCISES

60.1 Complete these sentences using one of these words. Use the where necessary. Use the same word in both (a) and (b) in each pair. (A)

advice coffee food French history magazines music teachers

- 1 a.....all over the world have published photos of the royal baby.
b Emily left.....we asked for on the table.
- 2 a.....played a very important part in his life.
b I thought.....used in the film was the best part.
- 3 a I've forgotten most of.....I learnt at school.
b I'm learning.....at night school.
- 4 a I'll always be grateful for.....he gave me.
b I asked my father for.....about the problem.
- 5 a Put.....you bought straight into the fridge.
b.....at that new Indonesian restaurant was excellent.
- 6 a I never did enjoy studying.....
b I'm reading a book about.....of the New Zealand Maori.
- 7 a The world price of.....has reached a record high.
b.....we got last week from the Brazilian café was excellent.
- 8 a In my opinion,.....deserve to be better paid.
b.....need to have enormous patience.

60.2 Delete any phrase which can't be used to form a correct sentence. (B)

- 1 *The white rhinoceros / A white rhinoceros* is close to extinction.
- 2 *The bicycle / A bicycle* is an environmentally friendly means of transport.
- 3 *The development of the railway / A development of the railway* encouraged tourism throughout Europe.
- 4 *The fridge / A fridge* is today considered an essential in most homes.
- 5 Writing *the letter / a letter* is often cheaper than telephoning.
- 6 Laszlo Birø is normally credited with having invented *the ball-point pen / a ball-point pen*.
- 7 *The experienced test pilot / An experienced test pilot* earns a considerable amount of money.
- 8 *The Jumbo Jet / A Jumbo Jet* has revolutionised air travel.
- 9 *The credit card / A credit card* is a convenient way of paying for purchases.

60.3 All the articles (a, an, and the,) have been removed from this text which describes the operation of a camera. Replace them where necessary. (Units 57-60)

Camera is free, of equipment used for taking photographs.
Camera lets in light from image in front of it and
directs light onto photographic film. Light has effect
on chemicals which cover film and forms picture on
it. When film is developed it is washed in chemicals
which make picture permanent. It is then possible- to
print picture onto photographic paper.

People and places

We usually use **zero article** before the names of particular people:

- **President Clinton** is to make a statement later today.
- The name of **Nelson Mandela** is known all over the world.

However, we use **the**:

- when there are two people with the same name and we want to specify which one we are talking about:
 - That's not **the Stephen Fraser I** went to school with.
- when we want to emphasise that a person is the one that everyone probably knows:
 - Do they mean **the Ronald Reagan**, or someone else?

When it is used this way, **the** is stressed and pronounced /ði:/.

- with an adjective to describe a person or their job:
 - **the late** (= dead) **Buddy Holly** **the artist William Turner**
the Aboriginal writer Sally Morgan **the wonderful actor Harrison Ford**
- when we talk about a family as a whole:
 - **The Robinsons** are away this weekend. (= the Robinson family)

Notice that a/an, or sometimes **zero article**, is used with a name to mean that someone else has or does not have the particular excellent qualities of the person named:

- Jane plays tennis well, but she'll never be **(a) Steffi Graf**.

We can also refer to a painting by a famous artist as, for example, 'a Van Gogh'.

You can use **a/an** before a person's name if you don't know the person yourself. Compare:

- There's **a** Dr Kenneth Perch on the phone. (= I haven't heard of him before) Do you want to talk to him?
- Dr Perch is here for you. (= I know Dr Perch)

Study these examples:

• They say he'll have to stay in hospital for six weeks.	• Tom's mother goes to the hospital to see him every day.
• Sue's at university studying French.	• Frank works as a security guard at a university .
• School should be a place where children are taught to enjoy learning.	• They're building a school at the end of our street.

☞ We use **zero article** when we talk about institutions such as **hospital, university, prison, school, college, or church** being used for their intended purpose: medical treatment in hospital, studying in university, and so on. We use **articles** when we talk about them as particular places or buildings. Notice that we talk about **bed** in the same way. Compare:

- She usually stays **in bed** till late at the weekend. *and*
- 'Have you seen my socks?' 'You left them on **the bed**.'

When we talk about **cinema, opera** or **theatre** in general, or when we refer to a building where this type of entertainment takes place, we use **the**:

- **I** try to go to **the cinema** at least once a week. (= cinema in general)
- We usually go to **the cinema** in New Street. (= a specific cinema)

However, if we are talking about a form of art, we generally prefer **zero article**:

- Not many children enjoy **opera**. (*rather than* ...enjoy the opera.)

EXERCISES

611 Put *a/an*, the *or* zero article (—) in the spaces. If two answers are possible, give them both. (A&B)

- 1 Are we talking now about.....John Smith who led the Labour Party?
- 2 We're going to a barbecue with.....Simpsons.
- 3 There's.....Linda Jones to see you.
- 4 A special award was given to.....film director Ingmar Bergman.
- 5 The prize is to be given each year in memory of.....late Ayrton Senna.
- 6 We met our old friend.....Romey Thompson in Sydney.
- 7 That surely can't be.....Jenny Watson we knew in Zimbabwe.
- 8 I found myself sitting next to.....Boris Yeltsin! Not.....Boris Yeltsin, of course, but someone with the same name.
- 9 I didn't realise how rich he was until I heard that he owns.....Picasso.
- 10 He's really keen on football. He likes to think of himself as.....Paul Gascoigne.
- 11 Have you heard that.....Woodwards are moving house?

612 Write the *where necessary* in these sentences. If the sentence is already correct, put a ✓. (B)

tie

- 1 Can I drive you to the university? It's on my way.
- 2 When I'm in London, I always go to theatre.
- 3 Margaret believes that all children should go to church every Sunday.
- 4 In Sweden, children start school when they are six or seven.
- 5 Jim's been in hospital for six weeks now.
- 6 He lives near church on the hill.
- 7 She's going to university to do French.
- 8 There was a fire at school in Newtown.
- 9 Even her most dedicated fans wouldn't call her new play a great work of theatre.
- 10 Have you heard hospital is going to close?
- 11 It's time the children went to bed.
- 12 He's been in and out of prison since he left school.

Look again at those in which zero article is correct before the place or institution. Which of them could have the? What would be the difference in meaning?

613 Who do you think is being described in these text extracts? (A)

1 ...previously unknown work by the German philosopher and writer,..... **has** been discovered...

2 ...has been revealed that the youngest American president,....., was...

3 ...the king of rock and roll,....., who died in 1977...

Think about how you would describe other famous people in a similar way. One is done for you.

- 1 ...the former Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping,.....
- 2
- 3

Holidays, times of the day, meals, etc.

We often use **zero article** with the names of holidays, special times of the year, or with the names of months and days of the week:

- **Easter** **Ramadan** **New Year's Day** **September** **Monday**

But compare:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'll see you on Saturday. • We met on Saturday. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They arrived on a Saturday as far as I can remember. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They arrived on the Saturday after my birthday party.
= next Saturday / last Saturday	= we are only interested in the day of the week, not which particular Saturday	= a particular Saturday, specifying which one

With **winter, summer, spring, autumn,** and **New Year** (meaning the holiday period), we can often use either **the** or **zero article**:

- In **(the) summer** I try to spend as much time in the garden as I can.
- In Scotland, they really know how to celebrate **(the) New Year**.

We use **the** when it is understood which summer, spring, etc. we mean:

- 'When did you meet Beth?' 'In the summer.' (= last summer)
- 'When are you going to university?' 'In the autumn.' (= next autumn)
- I first went skiing in the spring of 1992.

We say 'in the New Year' to mean at or near the beginning of next year:

- I'll see you again in **the New Year**.

When we want to *describe* the features of a particular holiday, season, etc., we use *a/an*:

- That was **a** winter I'll never forget.

We use **the** and **a/an** in the usual way when we talk about the **morning/afternoon/evening** of a particular day:

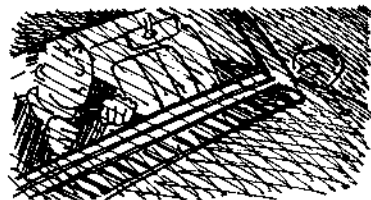
- I woke up with a sore throat, and **by the evening** my voice had disappeared.
- We're going **in the afternoon**.
- 'You look upset.' 'Yes, I've had **a terrible morning**.'

However, we use **zero article** with **at night** and **by night**. Compare:

- She kept us awake all **through the night**. *and*
- I don't like driving **at night**.

We use **zero article** with **midnight, midday,** and **noon**:

- If possible, I'd like it finished by **midday**.



We usually use **zero article** when we talk about meals:

- What have we got for **dinner**?
- I don't like drinking coffee at **breakfast**.

We wouldn't say, for example, 'I had a/the breakfast before I went out'. However, if we want to *describe* a particular meal, then we can use an article:

- We didn't get up until 10 o'clock and had **a** late **breakfast**.
- **The dinner** we had at Webster's restaurant was marvellous.

When we talk about a formal dinner or lunch for a special occasion, we use 'a dinner' or 'a lunch':

- We're having **a dinner** to welcome the new manager.

EXERCISES

621 Put a/an, the or zero article (-), whichever is most likely, in the spaces in these sentences. In some cases, you can use either the or zero article (write the/-). (A)

- 1 a She starts work on.....Monday next week.
- b I last saw her in town earlier in the year. I'm sure it was.....Monday, because that's when I go shopping, but I can't remember the exact date.
- c They phoned on.....Monday before the accident.
- 2 a I remember when Frank was last here. It was.....Christmas I got my new bike.
- b It was.....Christmas to remember.
- c We're returning after.....Christmas.
- 3 a The race is always held in.....June.
- b We last saw Dave.....June your mother was staying with us.
- c Even though it was March, the weather reminded me of.....hot June day.
- 4 a With the wedding and the new job, it was.....summer she would always remember.
- b There was a long drought in South Africa in.....summer of 1993.
- c I'm hoping to visit Italy in.....summer.
- 5 a We had a really good time over.....New Year.
- b Have.....happy New Year!
- c I'll contact you in.....New Year.

622 Study these extracts from newspapers. Decide which of them need an article (the or a/an) with the highlighted word. (B)

- 1 ...They had to spend night in a hotel because the flight was delayed...
- 2 ...will be able to wake up in morning and find their video-recorder...
- 3 ...was often kept awake at night by their song which floated up through the window...
- 4 ...or are old people who go to bed in afternoon because they can't afford to heat their houses...
- 5 ...until deliberations were completed. On Saturday morning, the jury embarked on its most difficult task...
- 6 ...be put into the sculpture itself; lights can be used at night which focus on the works; better alarms at the...
- 7 ...storm area grew and drifted southwards during afternoon, while other storms developed over the North...
- 8 ...can doze off in the sunshine, or wander out at night. Single parents are, particularly on holiday, out on their...
- 9 ...reflect the pain of the story. But, then, it was evening of celebration. It all ended with audience...
- 10 ...because in my head was a dream I had during night and I wanted to continue that dream to...

623 Where necessary, correct the articles in this extract from a letter. (A, B & C)

Dear Jo,

Thanks for your letter. Sounds like you had a good Christmas. Ours was pretty good, too. Joan arrived just after the breakfast and we went **for** a long walk in a morning. By around the midday we were **at** the time we got home Mark had cooked us the wonderful **with** turkey, Christmas pudding, and all the trimmings. We just sat in front of the TV during the afternoon watching old films. Joan went home in early evening as she doesn't like driving **at** the night. **at** her again in New **at** her, around midnight when we were just going to bed, Louise phoned from Australia to say 'hello'. She says she shopping to come to see us **at** next **at**...