

ARTICLES: A, AN, ZERO ARTICLE WITH PRURALS

The indefinite articles in English are: “a” and “an”

The indefinite article “a” is the same for all genders.

a cat, a boy, a dog

The indefinite article has no plural form.

a girl - X a girl

- “a” is used before nouns that begin with consonant or consonant sound

Example: a book, a computer, a refrigerator, a boy, a school, a girl

- “an” is used before nouns that begin with a vowel or vowel sound

Example: an orange, an hour, an airplane, an aunt, an old school, an American boy

Use of the indefinite article a/an

- Before phrases of time and measurements (per week/weekly)

We have Spanish 3 times a week.

Bananas are \$4 a kilo.

- Before phrases of jobs

My mother is a dentist.

- With a noun complement

She is a beautiful girl.

- Before phrases of nationality

Mary Angelotti is an Italian.

- Half/quite

I need half a pound of sugar.

It is important for you to pay attention at the time of using Zero Article.

Sometimes is difficult to know when to use the article “the”. Here you have some rules that will help you to know when you can use the article “the”.

ROLE MODELS

Definite Article

| Without the definite article | With the definite article |
|---|---|
| General words (indefinite) | General words (definite) |
| Life is too short. I like flowers. | I've read a book on the life of Bill Clinton. I like the flowers in your garden. |
| Names of persons on the singular, relatives | Family names in the plural |
| Peter and John live in London. Aunt Mary lives in Los Angeles. | The Smiths live in Chicago. |
| Public buildings, institutions, means of transport (indefinite) | Public buildings, institutions, means of transport (definite) |
| Mandy doesn't like school. We go to school by bus. Some people go to church on Sundays. | The school that Mandy goes to is old. The bus to Dresden leaves at 7.40. The round church in Klingenthal is famous. |
| Names of countries in the singular; summits of mountains; continents; towns | Names of countries in the plural; mountain ranges; regions |
| Germany, France; Mount Whitney, Mount McKinley; Africa, Europe; Cairo, New York | the United States of America, the Netherlands; the Highlands, the Rocky Mountains, the Alps; the Middle East, the west of Australia |

| Single islands | Groups of islands |
|--|---|
| Corfu, Bermuda, Sicily | the Bahamas, the British Isles, the Canaries |
| Parks; lakes; streets | Name with of-phrase; oceans; seas; rivers |
| Central Park, Hyde Park; Lake Michigan, Loch Ness; 42nd Street, Oxford Street | the Statue of Liberty, the Tower (of London), the Isle of Wight; the Atlantic (Ocean); the Mediterranean (Sea); the Nile, the Rhine, the Suez Canal |
| Months, days of the week (indefinite) | Months, days of the week (definite) |
| The weekend is over on Monday morning. July and August are the most popular months for holidays. | I always remember the Monday when I had an accident. The August of 2001 was hot and dry. |

