

2022-2023

**UNIVERSITY OF MOSUL
COLLEGE OF POLITICAL
SCIENCE HEADWAY**

SECOND STAGE

Additional Information Regarding the Use of Articles •

When indicating an unspecified, limited amount of a **count** or **noncount** noun, •
use *some*.

My cousin was seeking some advice from a counselor (not advice in general or advice •
about everything, but a limited amount of advice).

I would love some coffee right now (not coffee in general, but a limited amount of •
coffee).

We might get rain tomorrow. Some rain would be good for the crops (a certain amount •
of rain, as opposed to rain in general).

There are some drops of water on the table (a limited number, but more than one drop). •

Noncount nouns are those which usually •

- ◇ Certain food and drink items: bacon, beef, bread, broccoli, butter, cabbage, candy, cauliflower, celery, cereal, cheese, chicken, chocolate, coffee, corn, cream, fish, flour, fruit, ice cream, lettuce, meat, milk, oil, pasta, rice, salt, spinach, sugar, tea, water, wine, yogurt
- ◇ Certain nonfood substances: air, cement, coal, dirt, gasoline, gold, paper, petroleum, plastic, rain, silver, snow, soap, steel, wood, wool
- ◇ Most abstract nouns: advice, anger, beauty, confidence, courage, employment, fun, happiness, health, honesty, information, intelligence, knowledge, love, poverty, satisfaction, truth, wealth

◇ Areas of study: history, math, biology, etc.

◇ Sports: soccer, football, baseball, hockey, etc.

◇ Languages: Chinese, Spanish, Russian, English, etc.

◇ Other: clothing, equipment, furniture, homework, jewelry, luggage, lumber, machinery, mail, money, news, poetry, pollution, research, scenery, traffic, transportation, violence, weather, work

Geographical names are confusing because some require the and some do not.

◇ Use the with: united countries, large regions, deserts, peninsulas, oceans, seas, gulfs, canals, rivers, mountain ranges, groups of islands

However, if we are speaking of water in general spilled on the table, it would not be appropriate to count *one water* or *two waters* -- there would simply be *water* on the table. Water is a **noncount** noun. Therefore, according to the rules applying to **noncount** nouns, the word *water* would use *no article* or *the*, but not *a*.

Following are the three specific rules which explain the use of definite and indefinite articles.

.

Use the article *a* or *an* to indicate one in number (as opposed to more than one).

• Use the article *a* before a consonant sound, and use *an* before a vowel sound.

a boy, *an* apple

◊ Sometimes an adjective comes between the article and noun:

an unhappy boy, *a* red apple

Examples of the Use of Articles

I do not want a gun in my house (any gun).

The gun is in his closet (implies there is a specific gun).

I am afraid of guns (all guns in general).

She sent me a postcard from Italy (an unspecific postcard - not a letter, not an e-mail).

It's the postcard that I have in my office (one specific postcard).

Getting postcards makes me want to travel (any postcard in general).

I have a dog (one dog).

The dog is very friendly (the dog that I have already mentioned).

Dogs make great pets (dogs in general).

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ASSISTANT LECTURER: NAWAR BASIL

Types of common nouns

Common or generic nouns can be broken down into three subtypes: concrete nouns, abstract nouns, and collective nouns. A concrete noun is something that is perceived by the senses; something that is physical or real.

I heard the doorbell.

My keyboard is sticky.

Doorbell and keyboard name real things that can be sensed.

Conversely, an abstract noun is something that cannot be perceived by the senses.

We can't imagine the courage it took to do that.

Courage is an abstract noun. Courage can't be seen, heard, or sensed in any other way, but we know it exists.

Pack as used here is a collective noun. Collective nouns take a singular verb, as they refer to the collection of people or things they identify as one entity—in this case, the singular verb *is*.

*A **pride** of lions roamed the savanna.*

Pride is also a collective noun.

Proper nouns vs. common nouns

One important distinction to be made is whether a noun is a proper noun or a common noun. A proper noun is a specific name of a person, place, or thing and is always capitalized.

Does Tina have much homework to do this evening?

Tina is the name of a specific person.

I would like to visit Old Faithful.

However, if we are speaking of water in general spilled on the table, it would not be appropriate to count *one water* or *two waters* -- there would simply be *water* on the table. Water is a **noncount** noun. Therefore, according to the rules applying to **noncount** nouns, the word *water* would use *no article* or *the*, but not *a*.

Following are the three specific rules which explain the use of definite and indefinite articles.

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Use the article *a* or *an* to indicate one in number, as opposed to more than one.
*I own **a** cat and two dogs.*

- Use the article *a* before a consonant sound, and use *an* before a vowel sound.
***a** boy, **an** apple*
- ◊ Sometimes an adjective comes between the article and noun:
***an** unhappy boy, **a** red apple*

All nouns are either singular or plural in number. A singular noun refers to one person, place, thing, or idea and requires a singular verb, while a plural noun refers to more than one person, place, thing, or idea and requires a plural verb.

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Definite and Indefinite Articles (a, an, the) •

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TIP Sheet •

DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE ARTICLES •

In English there are three articles: a, an, and the. Articles are used before nouns or noun equivalents and are a type of adjective. The definite article (the) is used before a noun to indicate that the identity of the noun is known to the reader. The indefinite article (a, an) is used before a noun that is general or when its identity is not known. There are certain situations in which a noun takes no article.. •

As a guide, the following definitions and table summarize the basic use of articles. Continue reading for a more detailed explanation of the rules and for examples of how and when to apply them.

Definite article

the (before a singular or plural noun)

Indefinite article

a (before a singular noun beginning with a consonant sound)

an (before a singular noun beginning with a vowel sound)

Count nouns - refers to items that can be counted and are either singular or plural

For the purposes of understanding how articles are used, it is important to know that nouns can be either count (can be counted) or noncount (indefinite in quantity and cannot be counted). In addition, count nouns are either singular (one) or plural (more than one). Noncount nouns are always in singular form.

For example, if we are speaking of water that has been spilled on the table, there can be one drop (singular) or two or more drops (plural) of water on the table. The word drop in this example is a count noun because we can count the number of drops. Therefore, according to the rules applying to count nouns, the word drop would use the articles a or the.

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Following are the three specific rules which explain the use of definite and indefinite articles.

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Use the article *a* or *an* to indicate one in number (opposed to more than one).
*I own **a** cat and two dogs.*

- Use the article *a* before a consonant sound, and use *an* before a vowel sound.
***a** boy, **an** apple*
- ◊ Sometimes an adjective comes between the article and noun:
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[Future perfect continuous tense

We use the future perfect continuous to focus on the duration of an action before a specific time in the future.

Structural formula:

Subject + shall/will + have been + verb (ing) + object (optional) + time instant.

Examples:

He will have been studying hard for 2 weeks before the exam.

By the time the alarm goes off, we will have been sleeping for 8 hours

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What Is a Noun? Definition, Types, and Examples

Nouns are everywhere in our writing. But what are all the types of nouns you come across, and how do you use them?

A noun is a word that names something, such as a person, place, thing, or idea. In a sentence, nouns can play the role of subject, direct object, indirect object, subject complement, object complement, appositive, or modifier.

Some noun examples include:

Types of nouns

Nouns form a large proportion of English vocabulary, and they come in a wide variety of types.

Nouns can name a person:

Albert Einstein

the president

my mother

a girl

Nouns can name a place:

Mount Vesuvius

Disneyland

my bedroom

Noun

Proper nouns vs. common nouns

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Tina is the name of a specific person.

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Following are the three specific rules which explain the use of definite and indefinite articles.

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Use the article *a* or *an* to indicate one in number (as opposed to more than one).
I own *a* cat and two dogs.
• Use the article *a* before a consonant sound, and use *an* before a vowel sound.
a boy, *an* apple
◊ Sometimes an adjective comes between the article and noun:
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Old Faithful is the specific name of a geological phenomenon.

The opposite of a proper noun is a common noun, sometimes known as a generic noun. A common noun is the generic name of an item in a class or group and is not capitalized unless appearing at the beginning of a sentence or in a title.

The girl crossed the river.

Girl is a common noun; we do not learn the