

University of Bejaia

Lecturer: Miss.S. Aouiche

The articles

A- The indefinite articles:

1 The indefinite articles are "a" and "an", they mean one, we use them when we do not know exactly which thing we mean, when it is the first time we speak about it

eg:

a boy , a year , an arm

- a man was standing near the door

- there was an accident this morning

- a car crashed into a tree

2 "a" and "an" are used only before singular countable nouns.

3 We use "a" before nouns that begin with a consonant

eg:

a room , a chair , a table

4 We use "an" before nouns that begin with a vowel

eg:

an orange , an elephant , an article

5 We use "a" or "an" before jobs

eg:

My father works as a doctor

He wants to be an architect

The definite article "the"

1- We use the definite article "the" when we know which thing or things we are speaking about

eg:

I saw a man standing at the corner. The man was wearing a dark suit

2- The definite article can be used with countable nouns singular or plural

eg:

the teacher----- the teachers

the window----- the windows

3- The definite article is used with uncountable nouns

eg:

Pass me the bread, please

I will take the advice

When do we use "The"?

a) Before the preposition "of" or the relative pronoun "that"

eg:

The car of my father

The English that you speak is quite good

b) If we have already mentioned what we are speaking about

eg:

They lived in a small village. The village was very nice

A woman entered the shop. The woman was wearing a coat

c) Before things that are unique in their category

eg:

the sun , the moon , the earth , the universe

d) Before name of rivers and ranges of mountains

eg:

The Nile is a great river

The Djurdjura lies in the of Algeria

e) Before names of musical instruments

eg:

He plays the piano very well

I like the guitar

f) Before adjectives used as nouns

eg:

The rich should help the poor

The bold and the beautiful

When do we suppress the article "the"?

a) Before nouns of materials, food and drinks

eg:

Algeria exports oil to Europe

Gold is more valuable than silver

People enjoy drinking coca cola

b) Before names of countries

eg:

He settled in Sweden before leaving to France

c) Before colours and languages

eg:

Red, orange and purple are warm colours

I can speak French, English and Italian

d) Before subjects that are taught at school, sport, hobbies and religions

eg:

My favourite subjects are biology and mathematics

Do you like hard rock?

The most popular sport is football

f) Before seasons and meals

eg:

The season i like most is spring

We generally have breakfast at 7 O'clock