

ARTICLES (5)

No article (03)

In context

2 min

Sometimes, we use no article before a noun.



I need scissors



He is going to work

Using no article

8 min

We use no article before uncountable nouns in the singular or in the plural, when these nouns are indefinite. 'Indefinite' means: that does not refer to something in particular.

Examples:

She drinks water.

He likes to be alone, he does not like people.

We also use no article before plural countable nouns, when they are indefinite. This is the plural of 'a' and 'an'.

Examples:

There are cats in this room.

Cats like milk.

We can say "no article" or "the zero article".

In what common situations do we use the zero article?

Situations with no article	Example
Languages	Do you speak <i>English</i> ?
Meals	I will see you after <i>breakfast</i> .
Certain types of diseases	She has <i>cancer</i> .
Games	He plays <i>poker</i> .
Names including a title	Has <i>President Obama</i> met <i>Queen Elisabeth</i> ?
Some places: Most Countries States Towns Roads, streets Single mountains "Home" "Work" "School" "Church"	I would like to go to <i>Ireland</i> . They live in <i>Arizona</i> . He is traveling to <i>Miami</i> . You live on <i>Main Street</i> . I could not climb <i>Mount Everest</i> . We need to go <i>home</i> . She walks to <i>work</i> . You must go to <i>school</i> . We go to <i>church</i> .

Language Tips about the Zero Article

5 min

Remember that some words can be used with an article when they are definite (one thing in particular) and without when they are indefinite (something in general).

Examples:

We have to go to church. / We have to go to **the** church you told me about.

You go to school. / You go to **the** school they went to.

I speak English. / This is not **the** English I learned at school.

The countries with an article before are those including a noun, such as 'state', 'kingdom'.

Examples:

The United States

The United Kingdom

Writing exercise

5 min

Complete these sentences with "Ø" (no article) or "the".

1. I saw _____ church you told me about.
2. You are often late when you go to _____ church.
3. When will you come _____ home?
4. I studied this molecule in _____ chemistry class.
5. This is _____ street I take every morning.
6. When I was in Boston, I stayed on _____ Third Street.
7. Can you speak _____ Chinese?
8. Someone is asking for you on _____ phone.
9. _____ Children must go to school.
10. He traveled to _____ Canada and to _____ United States last year.

Writing Exercise (LOC-GR5-03-W2)

5 min

Put the words in the correct order.

1. about / truth / people / the / know / him
-

2. the / the / went / went / while / child / mother / school / work / to / to

3. this / the / street / Broad Street / is / not / it / is / I / want

4. Mount Rushmore / South Dakota / US Presidents / is / in / and / features / sculptures / former / of

5. I / the / breakfast / will / Miami / day / in / following / have

Reading exercise with the Teacher (LOC-GR5-03-Ri)

5 min

Read this text to your teacher and explain the use of each article (a, an, the, Ø).

Last weekend, I hiked in Pennsylvania, in the north east of the United States. Mount Minsi forms the Pennsylvania side of a beautiful state park: the Delaware Water Gap. There are many hikes in this park; you can choose an easy one or a difficult one.

Speaking Exercise with the Teacher (LOC-GR5-03-Si)

5 min

Using articles and the words in this list, tell your teacher a story about the picture¹ below: couple, airport, plane, suitcases, go skiing, snow, other passengers

Example: The couple in this picture is going on vacation.



¹ Picture from africa / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Watch the Video! (LOC-GR5-03-VO)

5 min

With this slide show, you will practice when we use the definite article 'the' and when we use no article.

Watch the second part of the video, from 50 seconds to 1:25:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmYgPHr60VU&feature=related>

Watch the same part again and answer the question.

What are the two nouns in the video that are used without any article? Write them in their order of appearance:

_____ and _____

Quiz

10 min

True or False?

1. We never use an article before the word 'school'.
true false
2. We use no article before plural countable nouns, when they are indefinite.
true false
3. 'Indefinite' means: that does not refer to something in particular.
true false
4. We never use an article before uncountable nouns.
true false

Write these sentences in the plural.

1. There is a car in the middle of Wayde Street!

2. The child on the swing is my nephew.

3. I hope to have a child some day.

4. She has aids.

Choose the correct answer:

1. I have never traveled to _____ New Zealand. (the / Ø)
2. I would like to learn _____ Spanish. (the / Ø)
3. This is _____ work of a true artist. (the / Ø)
4. Where would you like to go for _____ lunch? (the / Ø)
5. He is headed to _____ work. (the / Ø)
6. He drank _____ entire bottle of water in 10 seconds! (a / an)
7. What did you think of _____ Venice? (the / Ø)
8. _____ Venice I knew back in 1968 was so unpretentious and affordable. (the / Ø)
9. Would you like to play _____ card game? (a / the)
10. No, I don't like _____ card games. (the / Ø)