

Grundlagen Englisch

nouns, articles and determiners

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Nouns, articles & determiners

a = one thing or a person

- Rachel works in a **bank**.
- Can I ask a **question**?
- There's a **woman** at the bus stop.
- I haven't got a **computer**.

Nouns, articles & determiners

- an before a/e/i/o/u (if pronounced as vowel!)
- Do you want **an** apple or **an** orange?
- Where's there **an** umbrella?
- That's **an** interesting question.
- This is **an** unusual animal.
- **But**: a university □ /ju:nɪ'vɜ:səti/
a European □ /jʊərə'pi:ən/

Nouns, articles & determiners

Singular

- a flower
- a train
- one week
- this student
- a nice place

Plural

- some flowers
- two trains
- a few weeks
- these students
- some nice places

Spelling rules (buses, dishes, etc.):

Appendix 3 Spelling, p152-153

Nouns, articles & determiners

Some things are collective plural in English:

- Do you wear **glasses**?
- Can I borrow your **scissors**?
- You've got nice **jeans/trousers**.
- Where did you buy these **shorts**.
- She doesn't like wearing **tights**.
- Have you seen my **pyjamas**?

□ also: *a pair of*

Nouns, articles & determiners

Irregular plural forms:

- one man/woman two men/women
- a child many children
- one foot two feet
- this sheep these sheep
- a fish some fish
- a mouse two mice
- a person two people
- one criterion two criteria

Nouns, articles & determiners

- *Determiners* are used to make uncountable nouns countable:
 - Please give me **2kg of** rice.
 - I would like **some** coffee.
 - Do you have **a lot of** time?
 - There isn't **much** space in my flat.
 - I only have **(a) little** time. Make it quick.

Nouns, articles & determiners

- *some* and *any*

(□ rules apply for 'somebody', 'anything', etc.)

- pos.: I have **some** apples.
- neg.: I don't have **any** apples.
- ques.: Do you have **any** apples?

- but:

- offer: Would you like **some** coffee? (yes)
- expectation: Have you got **some** news? (yes)
- 'no limit': You can do **any** exercise you want to.

Your turn!

- Grammar Book, Units 39 – 44