

5.1 Articles

1 We use **articles** *a, an, the* to help us identify the **people, places** and **things** we are talking about. Sometimes we **don't** need to use an **article**.

1 That's **a** very nice jumper you're wearing.

2 Can I have **an** apple, please?

3 Are these **the** books you're looking for?

4 I can't find **the** key to **the** cupboard in **the** hall.

5 Cars are too fast these days.

no article ↗
6 I love hot soup in winter.

5.1 Articles

1 We use *a/an* with **singular countable nouns**. We use *a/an* when we talk about something for the **first time**.

- 1 Would you like **a** sandwich or **a** burger?
- 2 We bought **a** new car last month.

2 We use *an* when the next word begins with a **vowel sound**.

- 1 Could you call back in **an** hour, please?
- 2 Would you like **an** egg with your salad?

3 A few **nouns** start with a vowel but have a **consonant sound**.

- 1 I don't think she's got **a** university degree.
- 2 You have to put **a** euro coin in some shopping trolleys.

5.1 Articles

1 We use *the* with a **singular** or **plural noun** when **the other person knows** what we're talking about. We use *the* when we have talked about the thing **before**.

- 1 She bought **a new phone** yesterday. **The** new phone is much easier to use.
- 2 Where are **the pens** that we bought yesterday?

2 We use *the* when we are talking about something **obvious**.

- 1 Do you mind if I open **the** door?

The door in this room.

3 We use *the* when there is **only one** of the thing we're talking about.

- 1 Don't look straight at **the** sun.
- 2 Could you put this in **the** kitchen, please?

5.1 Articles

1 We do not use an article if we are talking about plural or uncountable nouns **in general**.

1 She likes **cats** more than **dogs**.

2 **Young people** often find it hard to get a job.

3 **Bread** is cheaper than **pasta**.

2 We don't usually begin a sentence with *a/an* when we describe situations. We usually use *there is/was*.

1 **There is** a bird outside the window. ~~A bird is outside the window.~~

2 **There was** a lorry at the side of the road. ~~A lorry was at the side of the road.~~

5.1 Articles

1 Complete the sentences with the correct article, **a/an, the** or – (no article).

1 Look carefully and you can see _____ moon.

Look carefully and you can see the moon.

2 I think _____ children nowadays are very lucky.

I think children nowadays are very lucky.

3 I don't want _____ big dog, I'd prefer _____ smaller pet.

I don't want a big dog, I'd prefer a smaller pet.

4 Why do you want to see _____ end of _____ film again?

Why do you want to see the end of the film again?

5 Can you pass me _____ salt, please?

Can you pass me the salt, please?

6 Do you have _____ pencil I could borrow, please?

Do you have a pencil I could borrow, please?