

articles (2)

Use indefinite article *a / an*

- to mean *one*.
*What would you like to eat? Can I have **a banana**?*
- to refer to large whole numbers, fractions, weights and distances.
a hundred a million a third a fifth
*two and **a half** a kilo a metre and **a half***
- with *a headache, a cold* etc.
*I've got **a headache / a toothache / an earache**. Have you got **a cold**?*

Note that most illness words use zero article.

*I've got **flu**. She's suffering from **appendicitis**.*

- in the expressions *what a...!, such a...!*
We use *what a ...* when we are surprised or impressed by something.
***What a** fantastic idea! **What a** great bike you have got!*
We use *such a ...* for emphasis with singular nouns.
*This is **such a** difficult problem! Thanks, you've been **such a** good friend.*
- to describe one example of a set of things.
*That's **a Picasso**. (a work of art)*
*This is **a Robbie Williams** song.*

Use definite article *the*

- with nationality adjectives that refer to all the people of that nationality, eg *Chinese, Japanese, French, Spanish, British, Swiss*.
***The French** drink a lot of wine.*
***The Swiss** are famous for their banks.*
- with plural nationality nouns in same way, eg *Russians, Americans, Poles, Greeks, Turks*.
***The Russians** and **the Poles** are used to cold weather.*
- with a singular noun to describe a class of things.
***The car** has taken over our cities.*
- with the names of shops and places with a general reference.
*Anna's at **the** cinema / **the** supermarket / in **the** garden / in **the** mountains / at **the** beach etc.*
- with some familiar objects when we think of them as the only one.
*One moment **the** Sun was shining in **the** sky. Then **the** Moon seemed to rise out of **the** sea.*
- with the names of oceans.
*They crossed **the Pacific** in a small boat.*

Use zero article

- to talk about school subjects, such as geography, history etc.
*If you want to study **physics**, you have to be good at **maths**.*
- to refer to days, months or parts of the day.
*I'll see you **on Monday at midday**. School begins **in September**.*
- with continents, countries, lakes, mountains etc. When plural, we use *the*.
*Lake Geneva borders **France** and **Switzerland**.*
*From here you can see **the Alps**.*
- with *at home, at school, in hospital, in prison, in bed* when we speak in general.
*David isn't **at school** today. He's **in bed at home**.*
But when referring to something other people know about, eg a specific place, building etc, we use *the*.
*The bus stops **outside the school**. Leave the towels **on the bed**.*
- with *such ...* for emphasis with plural or uncountable nouns.
*You are **such noisy children**! This is **such wonderful ice cream**!*

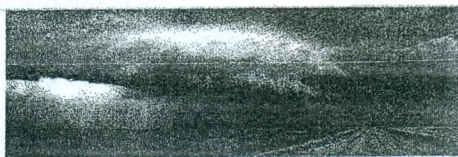
1 Underline the correct option. This may include a space (--) for zero article.

- a The / -- Republic of Slovenia lies at a / the heart of the / -- Europe.
- b It is where the / -- Alps face the / -- Pannonian plains and the / -- Mediterranean meets the / -- Karst region.
- c To the north is the / -- Austria and the / -- Hungary is to the / -- east.
- d To the south is the / -- Croatia and to the west is the / -- Italy.
- e A / The / -- weather here is ideal for the / -- holidays.
- f There are approximately 2,000 hours of a / the / -- sunshine per year, and there is plenty of the / -- snow in winter.
- g There are many woods and forests covering more than half of a / the / -- country.
- h In the / -- Kocevje area in one of a / the / -- oldest forests in the / -- Europe, it is possible to walk among the trees for days.

2 Complete the text with a / an, the or leave blank for zero article.

- a people often say they have flu when all they have is cold and slight temperature.
- b full name of flu is influenza.
- c real flu is caused by virus.
- d There are many different kinds of flu virus.
- e They give you high temperature, aching muscles and headache.
- f They also give you cold shivers and feeling of tiredness.
- g You may also get cough.
- h There is no treatment as antibiotics cannot kill viruses.
- i You should go to bed and rest.
- j If you go to school and mix with others, you will spread virus to them, so it is better to stay at home until you feel better.

3 Look carefully at each line. If the line has an article (a / an or the) which should not be there, write the article and the word following in the space. Put a tick ✓ in the space if the line has no errors.



A hurricane is a fast-moving storm moving in a circle measuring between 60 and 1,000 miles in diameter. It forms over a warm water far out at sea. It begins as a group of strong thunderstorms moving across the ocean, usually known as a tropical wave. The weather conditions must be just right to turn a tropical wave into a hurricane, and the less than five per cent of them ever become the real hurricanes. A tropical wave that begins to spin around a centre of low pressure is called a tropical depression. The tropical depressions have a maximum wind speeds of less than 65 km per hour at the ocean's surface. When the winds reach 65 km per hour or greater, the storm changes into a tropical storm, and the meteorologists give it a name. When these winds reach 120 km per hour or greater, a hurricane is formed. Each hurricane has an area in the middle called an eye. In the eye there is the low pressure and the winds are calm. The eye is surrounded by severe thunderstorms with high winds and a heavy rain. Hurricanes are called typhoons when they occur in the western Pacific Ocean, and cyclones in the Indian and southern Pacific Oceans. The name hurricane is used for storms in the North Atlantic and in other parts of the Pacific. Most hurricanes occur between the June 1st and 30th November.

- a ✓
- b a (warm)
- c
- d
- e
- f
- g
- h
- i
- j
- k
- l
- m
- n
- o
- p
- q

