

# Articles



	DEFINITE ARTICLE	INDEFINITE ARTICLE	ZERO ARTICLE
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>THE</b> + singular/plural countable/uncountable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>A</b> + consonant sound + singular countable</li> <li>■ <b>AN</b> + vowel sound + singular countable</li> </ul>	
Use	<p>The definite article is used with/indicates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>something specific</b> &gt; <i>The staff manager of CDE has been dismissed.</i></li> <li>■ <b>something that we have already referred to</b> &gt; <i>Yes, please, the tablet on top of the books.</i></li> <li>■ <b>titles</b> &gt; <i>The CEO has just flown in.</i></li> <li>■ <b>(+ plural) surnames to indicate the whole family</b> &gt; <i>The Robinsons have asked for compensation.</i></li> <li>■ <b>adjectives to refer to groups</b> &gt; <i>The young will certainly like this new version of the software.</i></li> <li>■ <b>musical instruments, balls</b> &gt; <i>I play the violin to give vent to my work stress.</i></li> <li>■ <b>plural nations or groups of states</b> &gt; <i>The Ireland Republic has vetoed imports of our product.</i></li> <li>■ <b>rivers, seas, mountain ranges, group of islands, deserts, canals</b> &gt; <i>The ship will go through the Suez Canal to reach its destination.</i></li> <li>■ <b>names of cinemas, theatres, museums, hotels, public institutions, ships, newspapers and magazines</b> &gt; <i>The manager will be accommodated at the Sheraton.</i></li> <li>■ <b>groups of years</b> &gt; <i>We are not as successful as we were in the '80s.</i></li> </ul>	<p>The indefinite article is used with/indicates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>any one of a particular type of thing</b> &gt; <i>You can never find a stapler in this office!</i></li> <li>■ <b>first reference to someone/something</b> &gt; <i>Look! There's an article on our company on the newspaper.</i></li> <li>■ <b>job, social condition, religious or political creed</b> &gt; <i>I'm an engineer and I'm a Liberal.</i></li> <li>■ <b>general description, definition</b> &gt; <i>A paper clip is what you use to keep more sheets of paper together.</i></li> <li>■ <b>fractions, hundred, thousand, million, half</b> &gt; <i>Half a million people have asked for it, but only a third actually bought it.</i></li> <li>■ <b>expressions referring to measure (weight, quantity and time)</b> &gt; <i>We deliver to China three times a month.</i></li> <li>■ <b>exclamations</b> &gt; <i>What a catchy slogan, I like it!</i></li> <li>■ <b>Mr, Miss, Mrs, Ms when meaning 'a certain'</b> &gt; <i>John? A Mrs Smith is asking for you on line 3.</i></li> </ul>	<p>The zero article is used with/indicates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>(+ plural) general reference to people or things</b> &gt; <i>We deal with toys.</i></li> <li>■ <b>abstract concepts</b> &gt; <i>We shouldn't waste energy if we're a green company.</i></li> <li>■ <b>proper nouns (people, cities, stations, airports)</b> &gt; <i>The boss has just landed at Heathrow.</i></li> <li>■ <b>activities</b> &gt; <i>Collaborating is what I want my employees to do.</i></li> <li>■ <b>colours</b> &gt; <i>Red will be the colour of our logo.</i></li> <li>■ <b>festivities</b> &gt; <i>We are going to be closed at Christmas.</i></li> <li>■ <b>languages, school subjects</b> &gt; <i>We don't speak Chinese, sorry.</i></li> <li>■ <b>beverages, meals</b> &gt; <i>Mary has taken the clients out to lunch.</i></li> <li>■ <b>religions, sports</b> &gt; <i>The shoes we're about to launch are good both for tennis and squash.</i></li> <li>■ <b>substances, materials</b> &gt; <i>We only use premium quality leather for our bags.</i></li> <li>■ <b>singular states, regions, mountains, islands, lakes, continents</b> &gt; <i>Sardinia is where I'll send my staff for their incentive travel bonus.</i></li> <li>■ <b>squares, streets, parks</b> &gt; <i>Let's meet in Times Square, at 4 pm, would that be fine?</i></li> <li>■ <b>Mr, Miss, Mrs, Ms + name</b> &gt; <i>Mr Smith has just called.</i></li> <li>■ <b>dates, times, seasons</b> &gt; <i>It's 3 pm.</i></li> <li>■ <b>hospital, university, prison, school used for their primary purpose</b> &gt; <i>Our receptionist is in hospital, unfortunately.</i></li> <li>■ <b>nouns + numbers</b> &gt; <i>The meeting is being held in Room 5.</i></li> </ul>

# 1 Circle the articles that can be used in these phrases. Then, write a sentence for each possible alternative.

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. A/An/The/0 Seine          | 7. A/An/The/0 computer              |
| 2. A/An/The/0 United Kingdom | 8. A/An/The/0 engineer              |
| 3. A/An/The/0 Isle of Man    | 9. A/An/The/0 mobile phones         |
| 4. A/An/The/0 printer        | 10. A/An/The/0 pen next to the book |
| 5. A/An/The/0 Mr Reddington  | 11. A/An/The/0 thousand             |
| 6. A/An/The/0 yellow         | 12. A/An/The/0 rich                 |

## 2 Correct the wrong articles in these sentences.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Hundreds of the people are using Linux in this company.                        | 5. We export optical fibre cables to the Africa, to the Thailand and to the US at least once the month. |
| 2. A server is the powerful computer that stores data or applications.            | 6. Mr Smith is an CAD operator but he's attending a course in an accounting, too.                       |
| 3. The Internet offers great opportunities to improve the our education.          | 7. Not all networks are same.   |
| 4. We have a computer store here in the George Street and another one in Atlanta. | 8. Your computer is connected to a web through a modem.   |

## 3 Complete these sentences with the appropriate article, definite, indefinite or zero.

### UNICEF Report: Growing Inequalities Threaten Most Disadvantaged Kids

Some 69 million children under five years of age will die from **1.** ..... mostly preventable causes, 167 million children will live in **2.** ..... poverty, and 750 million women will have been married as children by 2030, unless **3.** ..... world focuses more on **4.** ..... difficult situation of its most disadvantaged children, according to **5.** ..... United Nations report published today.

"Denying hundreds of millions of children **6.** ..... fair chance in **7.** ..... life does more than threaten **8.** ..... their futures – by sustaining intergenerational cycles of disadvantage, it menaces **9.** ..... future of their societies," said **10.** ..... Executive Director of **11.** ..... UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), **12.** ..... Anthony Lake, on the release of The State of The World's Children, **13.** ..... agency's annual important report.

"We have **14.** ..... choice: invest in these children now or allow our world to become still more unequal and divided," he added. **15.** ..... report notes that significant progress has been made in saving

**16.** ..... children's lives, getting children into **17.** ..... school and lifting **18.** ..... people out of poverty. Global under-five mortality rates have been more than halved since 1990, boys and girls attend **19.** ..... primary school in equal numbers in 129 countries, and **20.** ..... number of people living in extreme poverty worldwide is almost half what it was in **21.** ..... 1990s. But this progress has been neither even nor fair, the report says. **22.** ..... poorest children are twice as likely to die before **23.** ..... their fifth birthday and to be chronically malnourished than the richest. Across much of **24.** ..... South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, **25.** ..... children born to **26.** ..... mothers with no education are almost three times more likely to die before they are five than those born to mothers with **27.** ..... secondary education. And **28.** ..... girls from **29.** ..... poorest households are twice as likely to marry as children than **30.** ..... girls from the richest households.

Adapted from: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/06/unicef-report-growing-inequalities-threaten-most-disadvantaged-kids/>