

The Use of Articles

NB! See the commentaries at the end!

A(n) = one (of several things/persons) NB! ONLY IN THE SINGULAR!	the = this/that, these/those	— (Ø - article, zero-article)																																				
C O U N T A B L E N O U N S (H A V I N G T H E P L U R A L !)																																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Meaning <i>one of a kind/group</i> or <i>all the examples of the same kind</i>. IN THE PLURAL: some, any ◆ In a general meaning = <i>anyone, anything (of the kind)</i>. ◆ Something is mentioned for the first time. ◆ Meaning <i>an example of a class of items where the particular person/thing belongs to = any</i>. ◆ The noun refers to someone's job/profession. ◆ Meaning <i>a certain person whom one does not know (specially before titles Mr, Mrs, Miss, etc.)</i>. ◆ In certain expressions: <table style="width: 100%; border: none; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td>have a headache/smoke/walk/cold/pain/temperature/rest/good time/talk</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>be a pity/shame/pleasure</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>be in a hurry</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>speak in a loud voice/whisper</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>take a seat/look/picture</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>go for a walk/swim/ride</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>half a minute/month/year</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>have (a) backache/stomach-ache/toothache</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>catch (a) cold</td> <td>have (an) earache</td> <td>half an hour</td> </tr> <tr> <td>earn a living</td> <td>a lot of ...</td> <td>what a ...</td> </tr> <tr> <td>such a ...</td> <td>as a rule</td> <td>end a hand</td> </tr> <tr> <td>make a start</td> <td>a great/good deal</td> <td>have a sore throat</td> </tr> </table> 	have a headache/smoke/walk/cold/pain/temperature/rest/good time/talk			be a pity/shame/pleasure			be in a hurry			speak in a loud voice/whisper			take a seat/look/picture			go for a walk/swim/ride			half a minute/month/year			have (a) backache/stomach-ache/toothache			catch (a) cold	have (an) earache	half an hour	earn a living	a lot of ...	what a ...	such a ...	as a rule	end a hand	make a start	a great/good deal	have a sore throat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The person/thing mentioned is supposed to be known to the speaker/reader = <i>this, those</i>. ◆ A person/thing is mentioned a second time = <i>this, those</i> ◆ Before some words that suggest that the person/thing is unique: adjectives in the <i>superlative degree</i>, <i>ordinals</i>, words <i>same, only</i>. ◆ Before a noun made definite by adding an <i>of-phrase</i>, a <i>phrase</i> or <i>clause</i>. ◆ The object/group of objects is unique/considered to be unique: <u>celestial bodies</u>, <u>points of the compass</u>, <u>historical events</u>, <u>documents</u>, <u>official titles</u>, <u>government offices</u>, <u>political parties</u>, <u>public bodies</u>, <u>climate</u>, <u>species</u>, <u>nationalities</u> (as a group), <u>firms</u>, <u>organisations/institutions</u> (<i>except for schools</i>), expressions of <u>media</u>. ◆ The names of <u>schools</u> and <u>universities</u> containing <i>of</i>. ◆ Before a noun that represents the whole class of <u>persons</u>, <u>animals</u> or <u>things</u>. ◆ Used sometimes before of a noun group <i>profession + a well-known person's name</i> or <i>the well known somebody</i>. ◆ Musical instruments. ◆ In certain expressions: <p style="margin-left: 20px;">in the country, in the field, in the sun, in the open air, in the street, on the right/left, at the seaside, at/in the corner, at the skating-rink, on the whole, the other day, to take the train/floor, to listen to the radio, to get the upper hand, to play the piano/violin/guitar/fool; to go to the doctor, to go to the pictures/cinema/theatre; to tell sb the truth/time; the president of the USA; What's the time? to go to the supermarket/bank; in the mountains; at the seaside: the earth/sea/sky/sun/moon/universe/weather</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In the plural of countable nouns ◆ <u>Seasons</u>, <u>months</u>, <u>days of the week</u>, <u>holidays</u>, <u>church holidays</u>, (predicative) <u>parts of the day and night</u>, <u>names of meals</u>, <u>names of games</u> in the <i>unlimited</i> meaning. ◆ <i>Father, mother, uncle, aunt</i> in their family. ◆ <i>School, church, prison, market, bed, college, sea, hospital, man, woman, home, court, college, university, class, work, town</i> as <u>notions</u>. ◆ Nouns with modifiers <i>most, last, next</i>. ◆ Means of transport with the preposition by: by bicycle, by bike, by bus, by coach, by car, by boat, by land, by sea, by ship, by tram, by plane, by tube. ◆ Names of <u>illnesses</u> (<i>except for the ones under a(n)</i>). ◆ In parallel structures (2 similar words with a preposition): <i>hand in hand</i> ◆ In word pairs joined by and: <i>day and night</i> ◆ Before the second, etc. element of the list, if the first element is a/the. ◆ After the verb turn = <i>become</i>: <i>turn traitor</i>. ◆ In <u>titles/headings</u>, <u>notices</u>, <u>signs</u>, <u>labels</u>, <u>telegrams</u>, <u>messages</u>, <u>newspaper headlines</u>, <u>notes</u>, (<u>shopping</u>) <u>lists</u>, <u>instructions</u>, <u>dictionary definitions</u>. ◆ In <u>stage remarks</u>. ◆ Names of schools and universities (<i>uncountable, singular</i>). ◆ After a noun in the possessive case = <i>the boy's book</i> ◆ Before the noun connoting the <u>word of address</u>. ◆ Before the word nature = <i>spirit motivating and creating the world of plants and animals</i> ◆ It can replace the before a noun describing person's 'role' or 'function' = (the) <i>captain of the ship</i>. ◆ In certain established expressions: <p style="margin-left: 20px;">to/in town, on shore, at hand, by/at/to heart, send/leave word, at/to school, (at) home, on foot; at noon; at (mid)night; on deck; at/to work; go to bed, on duty; at table; by mistake/chance; last/next week; at dawn/daybreak/sunrise/sunset; by day/night; come to light; keep in mind; make friends; make fun of; at speed; in turn; on top of</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Connected with a <u>specifying</u> attribute (<i>of, that/which ...</i>). ◆ The quantity of the substance is exactly determined. ◆ The substance is located in the nearest vicinity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In the general meaning/just the substance of the kind. ◆ Before <u>food</u>, <u>drink</u>. 																																				

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A B S T R A C T N O U N S / N O T I O N S (U N C O U N T A B L E , S I N G U L A R !)		
NB! Can be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Meaning <i>a type of, a portion of</i> = <i>I've got a shampoo for dry hair.</i> ◆ The meaning is particular rather than general = <i>I need a good sleep; with a knowledge of English.</i> ◆ Meaning <i>an example of that class</i> = <i>This is a very good coffee.</i> ◆ It is modified/qualified = <i>a general education.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ It is connected with a <u>specifying</u> modifier (<i>of, that/which ...</i>). ◆ The = <i>the whole of something.</i> ◆ Human groups/notions derived from adjectives: the rich. ◆ Grammar terms. ◆ In fixed phrases: the + comparative + ..., the + comparative + ... = <i>Estonian: ...mida..., seda ...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Notions <i>without</i> modifiers/attributes. ◆ It has an established descriptive modifier: <i>human life, English poetry, etc.</i> ◆ Before <u>collections, colours, activities, sports, games, political and philosophical terms, languages, academic subjects.</u> ◆ Words <i>school, college, church, prison, market, sea, bed, hospital, man, woman, war, life, success, joy, light, beauty, youth, work, fate, table, town, nature, hell, heaven paradise, bed, class, university</i> etc. as notions.
P R O P E R N O U N S (b e g i n n i n g w i t h t h e c a p i t a l l e t t e r !)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ One/a member of the family = <i>She is a Taylor.</i> ◆ The name of a person has changed into a common noun/countable noun = <i>a mackintosh</i> ◆ The proper name means <i>one of many, a kind of</i> = <i>He is a modern Nero.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Names in the plural = <i>the family</i> ◆ Names in the plural = <i>countries: the Netherlands, the USA, the West Indies.</i> ◆ Names of the <u>persons, countries, and towns, days of the week, months, seasons, historic events/documents</u> with a <u>characterizing/specifying</u> modifier. ◆ Names of <u>rivers, channels/canals, seas, oceans, streams, straights.</u> ◆ Names of <u>ships</u> and <u>newspapers</u> which <i>main word</i> is <i>countable</i>. ◆ Names of <u>points of the compass.</u> ◆ Geographical names, consisting of a <u>countable</u> noun: <i>union, republic, state, sea, ocean, mountain, stream, channel, gulf, bay, cape</i>, and a <u>modifier</u>, either a <u>noun</u> or an <u>adjective</u>. ◆ Names of <u>groups of islands, deserts, mountain ranges, regions.</u> ◆ Exceptional geographical names: <i>the Crimea, the Caucasus, the Ukraine, the Congo, the Hague, the Ruhr, the City, the East/West End, the Sudan, the Yemen, the Philippines, the Mall, the Strand, the East/West Indies, the North/South Pole, the Equator, the Middle East, the Isle of ...</i> ◆ Names of <u>theatres, cinemas, hotels, pubs, cafés, restaurants, museums, galleries, libraries, hospitals, organisations, parties, public bodies, titles of books, films, etc.</u> ◆ Names of certain buildings/institutions: <i>the Kremlin, the Tower.</i> ◆ Titles of persons containing <i>of</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Names of <u>persons/countries/towns</u> (<i>also with an established modifier</i>). ◆ Titles of persons. ◆ Names of <u>days of the week, months, seasons, (church) holidays, red-letter days</u> (<i>also with the modifier next/last</i>). ◆ <u>Religious notions</u> as proper names: <i>God, Christ, Providence, Scripture, Heaven, Hell, Paradise.</i> ◆ Names of <u>languages.</u> ◆ Expressions <i>from North to South, etc.</i> ◆ Names of <u>streets, bridges, airports, parks, squares, buildings, railway stations, shops, addresses.</u> ◆ Names of a <u>single island</u> or <u>mountain/hill.</u> ◆ Names of <u>continents, geographical areas, historic references, states, counties, cities, capes, lakes.</u> ◆ Universities consisting of a <u>proper name.</u> ◆ Names of <u>magazines/journals</u> consisting of an <u>uncountable</u> noun or <u>newspapers/magazines/journals in a foreign language</u> (<i>for example Estonian</i>). ◆ Academic subjects = <i>History.</i> ◆ Names of some theatres (<i>Her Majesty's</i>), hotels (<i>Brown's</i>), restaurants (<i>Leoni's</i>) and hospitals (<i>Guy's</i>) (NB! The genitive case!)

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To determine the correct article:

1. I decide if the noun has the **plural form** or not, if the noun is *countable* or *uncountable*.
2. I decide if the noun is the **proper noun** or not. **NB!** The proper noun begins with a **CAPITAL** letter!