

# ARTICLES

**Articles** are words “**a**”, “**an**”, “**the**”, “**some**” and “**any**” that show whether the following noun is general or specific.

## Indefinite Article

The indefinite articles “**a**” and “**an**” is used to talk about something in general (without specificity).

It’s **a** beautiful flower. (any flower)

He reads **a** book every month. (any book)

I am looking for **a** motel. (any motel)

“**an**” is used instead of “**a**” before words that **start with a vowel**.

This is **an** ancient city.

It took **an** army to clean that up.

She bought **an** expensive dress.

## Definite Article

The definite articles “**the**” is used to talk about a specific person or object or event.

This is **the** beautiful flower he gave her.

He reads **the** bestselling book every month.

I am looking for **the** Marriot hotel.

**The** dog that barks every night belongs to him.

**The** elderly gets **the** vaccines first.

He finished **the** school assignment.

**The** Golden Gate Bridge is **the** most famous site in San Francisco.

*(“**the**” is used with unique object “Golden Gate Bridge”. “**the**” is also used before superlatives “most”)*

**“the” can be used with adjectives to refer to a specific group of people.**

The pandemic devastated **poor people** -> The pandemic devastated **the poor**

**Elderly people** get the vaccine first -> **The elderly** get the vaccine first

This tax break benefited **rich people** -> This tax break benefited **the rich**

We should aid injured people first -> We should aid **the injured** first

Ukraine is the home of brave people -> Ukraine is the home of **the brave**.

**“some”** is used instead of **“a”** or **“an”** before **plural nouns**.

He takes **some** medicines for his illness.

It took **some** efforts to get there.

She bought **some** expensive dresses.

**“any”** is used instead of **“some”** to form questions or negatives.

Does he take **any** medicines for his illness?

Did it take **any** times to get there?

She didn't buy **any** expensive dresses.

Did she buy **any** expensive dresses?

## **Zero Article**

An article is not needed with **uncountable** or **plural nouns** used in a general context.

Mosquitoes are everywhere at dusk. (Mosquitoes is uncountable noun)

Wildlife enjoys an abundance of natural resources here. (Wildlife is plural noun)

Children are very resilient. (Children is plural noun)

She has so many friends. (friends is plural noun)

They sprinkled salt on the frozen sidewalk. (salt is uncountable noun)

He lost money at the casino. (money is uncountable noun)

**Practice:** Complete the sentence with appropriate zero article or “the”, “a”, “an”, “some”, “any”.

1. He ran quickly to \_\_\_\_ market.
2. The crowd converged to \_\_\_\_ townhall.
3. The dog quietly gnaws on \_\_\_\_\_ bone.
4. Jim will go to \_\_\_\_ college next year.
5. Martha wrote \_\_\_\_ essay.
6. She planted \_\_\_\_ flowers.
7. He bought \_\_\_\_ new shoes yesterday.
8. The plot of \_\_\_\_ movie was predictable.
9. He should drink \_\_\_\_ milk every day.
10. Mary makes \_\_\_\_ money selling lottery tickets.
11. Did you bring \_\_\_\_ money?
12. They didn't do \_\_\_\_ homework over the weekend.
13. She went to \_\_\_\_ school this morning.
14. I see \_\_\_\_ koala bear everywhere.
15. I played soccer at \_\_\_\_ school.
16. Mom didn't buy \_\_\_\_ milk.

**Answers:**

1. He ran quickly to **the** market. (a specific market)
2. The crowd converged to **the** townhall. (a specific townhall)
3. The dog quietly gnaws on **a** bone.
4. Jim will go to college next year. (zero article is used with some places that have clear purpose)
5. Martha wrote **an** essay.
6. She planted **some** flowers. (“some” replace “a” before plural nouns “flowers”)
7. He bought new shoes yesterday. (zero article is used with plural nouns in general context)
8. The plot of **the** movie was predictable.
9. He should drink milk every day. (zero article is used with uncountable nouns “milk”)
10. Mary makes money selling lottery tickets. (zero article is used with uncountable nouns “money”)
11. Did you bring **any** money? (“any” is used in place of “some” to form question)
12. They didn't do **any** homework. (“any” is used in place of “some” to form negatives)
13. She went to school this morning. (zero article is used with some places that have clear purpose)
14. You see koala bears everywhere. (zero article is used with plural nouns in general context)
15. I played soccer at school. (zero article is used with some places that have clear purpose)
16. Mom didn't buy **any** milk. (“any” is used in place of “some” to form negatives)