

A - An - The

a + consonant sound (/b/, /d/, /g/, /f/, /l/, /p/, etc.) **a** pen
an + vowel sound (/æ/, /e/, /i/, /o/, /ə/, etc.) **an** apple

- **A / An** is used with singular countable nouns when we talk about things in general.
An aeroplane is faster than *a* train. *A* greengrocer sells vegetables.
 (Which aeroplane? Aeroplanes in general.) (Which greengrocer? Greengrocers in general.)
- We often use **a / an** after the verbs 'to be' and 'have/has got'
He is a photographer. *He has got a* camera.
- We do not use **a / an** with uncountable or plural nouns. We can use some instead.
Would you like some tea? Yes, please! *And I'd like some* biscuits. (**NOT** *Would you like a* tea?)
- **A / An** is not used before an adjective if it is not followed by a noun. However, if the adjective is followed by a noun, we use **a** if the adjective begins with a consonant noun and **an** if the adjective begins with a vowel sound.
It's a ring. *It's expensive.* *It's an* expensive ring.
- **The** is used before singular and plural nouns, both countable and uncountable, when we talk about something specific or when the noun is mentioned for a second time.
The boy who has just left is my cousin. (Which boy? Not anyone. A specific boy, the boy who has just left.)
There is a cat on the sofa. *The* cat is sleeping. ('The cat' is mentioned for a second time.)
- We use **the** with the words cinema, theatre, radio, country(side), seaside, beach, world, weekend, etc.
We go to the beach every Sunday.
- We use either **a / an** or **the** before a singular countable noun to represent a class of people, animals or things.
A / The dolphin is more intelligent than *a / the* shark. (We mean dolphins and sharks in general.)
ALSO: *Dolphins are more intelligent than sharks.*

1. Fill in: a, an, the or some.

- 1 A:** Could you give me *some* information?
B: Of course, please hold on minute.
- 2 A:** Did you buy birthday present for Tom?
B: Yes, I got him unusual candle.
- 3 A:** While I was in the shops, I found old books and amazing radio.
B: Were they expensive?
- 4 A:** Why are you laughing?
B: Jack told me reall funny joke. He's got great sense of humour.
- 5 A:** What happened to the sweets that were on the table yesterday?
B: Sorry. I gave to Helen and Claire and then ate the rest myself!
- 6 A:** Last night was great night!
B: Yes, I've never been to such amazing party before!
- 7 A:** Can I help you?
B: Yes. I'm looking for book about giraffes.
- 8 A:** When do you usually go to cinema?
B: At weekend.
- 9 A:** Do you have any plans for tonight, Mandy?
B: Yes, I'm going out with friends.
- 10 A:** Did you have fun at zoo?
B: Yes! We saw penguins and elephant.
- 11 A:** What do you want to be when you grow up?
B: astronaut!
- 12 A:** Where are boys, Bob?
B: They are playing in garden.

The is also used before:

- nouns which are unique.
*Haven't you been to **the** Acropolis yet?*
- names of cinemas (**the** Odeon), hotels (**the** Hilton), theatres (**the** Rex), museums (**the** Prado), newspapers (**the** Times), ships (**the** Queen Mary).
- names of rivers (**the** Thames), seas (**the** Black Sea), groups of islands / states (**the** Bahamas, **the** USA), mountain ranges (**the** Alps), deserts (**the** Gobi Desert), oceans (**the** Pacific) and names with .. , of (**The** Tower of London).
- musical instruments.
*Can you play **the** guitar?*
- names of people / families / nationality words.
***the** Smiths, **the** English, **the** Italians, etc.*
- titles without proper names.
***the** Queen, **the** President*
- the superlative degree of adjectives / adverbs (**the** best).
*He's **the** most intelligent student of all.*

The is omitted before:

- proper nouns.
Paula comes from Canada.
- names of sports, activities, colours, substances and meals.
He plays tennis well. She likes blue. Soda isn't expensive. Lunch is ready.
- names of countries (*Italy*), cities (*London*), streets (*Bond Street*), parks (*Hyde Park*), mountains (Everest), islands (Cyprus), lakes (*Lake Michigan*), continents (*Europe*).
- the possessive case or possessive adjectives.
This isn't your coat, it's Kate's.
- the words 'home' and 'Father / Mother' when we talk about our own home/parents.
Father isn't at home.
- titles with proper names.
Queen Elizabeth, President Kennedy
- bed, school, church, hospital, prison, when they are used for the reason they exist.
John was taken to hospital.
BUT: *His mother went to the hospital to see him.*

2. Fill in the where necessary.

1..... Africa is 2..... second largest continent, after 3..... Asia, covering about one fifth of the total land surface of 4..... Earth. 5..... continent is bounded on the west by 6..... Atlantic Ocean and on the east by 7..... Rd Sea and 8..... Indian Ocean. 9..... Africans are 10..... the people who live in 11..... Africa. 12..... Orange River in 13..... southern Africa is one of 14..... longest rivers on 15..... continent and 16..... largest freshwater lake is 17..... Lake Victoria.

3. Fill in the where necessary.

- 1 **A:** What do you think about **the** book I gave you?
B: It was OK, but I really prefer adventure stories.
- 2 **A:** Melanie has played guitar for about ten years now, hasn't she?
B: That's right. She's always loved classical guitar.
- 3 **A:** You visited university in Ankara last weekend, didn't you?
B: Yes, I went to see my son. He's studying Engineering.
- 4 **A:** Did you watch TV last night?
B: No, I visited my uncle who's in hospital.
- 5 **A:** Where are Mary and Ted going for their honeymoon?
B: They're going to Dominican Republic.
- 6 **A:** Have you ever been to London?
B: Yes, I was there last summer. We stayed at Park Hotel.
- 7 **A:** Did you see Queen on TV last night?
B: No, but I read her speech in Times this morning.

4. Fill in a, an or the where necessary.

- 1 **A:** Can you tell me the way to **the** nearest bank, please?
B: Sure. Turn left here and you'll find it in Green Street.
- 2 **A:** Is this Tom's motorbike?
B: No, blue motorbike over there is his.
- 3 **A:** Where are Wilsons going on holiday?
B: They're going to Turkey.
- 4 **A:** What do you know about Bermuda Islands?
B: They're in North Atlantic Ocean.
- 5 **A:** What shall we do tonight?
B: Let's go to Odeon. There's a comedy on with Jim Carrey.
- 6 **A:** I'm going to make pie for tonight.
B: Great!
- 7 **A:** I saw amazing film last night.
B: Really? What was it about?
- 8 **A:** Would you like some ice cream?
B: No, thanks. I'd prefer sandwich.