



Centre Universitaire Abdelhafid Boussouf Centre E-Learning



English – Level1

Lesson 8

English Articles

<i>Staff pédagogique</i>			
<i>Nom</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Institut</i>	<i>Adresse e-mail</i>
<i>Djalal Mansour</i>	<i>MCB</i>	<i>Lettres et Langues</i>	djalal.mansour@centre-univ-mila.dz
<i>Assia Azzioui</i>	<i>MCB</i>	<i>Lettres et Langues</i>	a.azzioui@centre-univ-mila.dz
<i>Amel Bouarroudj</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>Lettres et Langues</i>	ameliab583@yahoo.co.uk

<i>Etudiants Concernés Semestre 1</i>			
<i>Institut</i>	<i>Département</i>	<i>Année</i>	<i>Spécialité</i>
<i>Lettres et Langues</i>	<i>-Langues Etrangère</i>	<i>Licence 1</i>	<i>Français.</i>
<i>Sciences et Technologie</i>	<i>-Mathématique et informatique -Sciences Techniques.</i>	<i>Licence 1</i>	<i>-MI. -ST.</i>
<i>Sciences Economique</i>	<i>-Sciences Economique.</i>	<i>Licence 1</i>	<i>Toutes les spécialités.</i>

Objectives of the Lesson:

1. To make students aware of the existence and role and significance of articles.
2. To enable students to use articles appropriately.

1. Definition:

An article is word that indicates whether a given noun is specific or general.

2. Types of Articles:

There are two types of English articles which are the definite article **'The'**, and the indefinite articles **'an'** and **'a'**.

A- The Definite Article **'The'**:

The definite article **'The'** is used when we refer to or speak about a specific or a particular person, place or thing. It can be used before both singular and plural nouns, as well as before countable or uncountable nouns. For example, **would you please give me the book?** (The speaker is asking for a specific book.)

Laila is the girl wearing black. (The speaker is referring to a particular person.)

It can be also used before plural nouns; for example, she is looking for the notes she wrote yesterday.

Other Uses of **'The'**:

- When talking about someone or something that has been mentioned before.

We are going to the restaurant where we met last time.

- When talking about something unique.

The world/the sun/the moon/the earth the sky/the equator...etc.

- Names of famous buildings.

The statue of Liberty, the Eiffel Tower, the Martyr Memorial.

- Before superlatives

The oldest/the most beautiful/ the biggest city.

- Before names of rivers, seas, oceans, mountain ranges, groups of

islands The Mississippi/the Atlantic Ocean/the Himalayas.

- Before abbreviations and initials of countries

The EFL learners (English as a Foreign Language)/the UK (United Kingdom)

B- The Indefinite Articles 'A' and 'An':

On the other hand, 'a' and 'an' are used to speak about someone or something generic or unspecific. the speaker is not referring to anyone or anything in particular; for example, I need a pen (The speaker is not asking for a specific pen, but rather for any pen.) In addition to that, 'a' and 'an' are used only with singular nouns.

'A' is to be used before a noun that starts with a consonant sound. **e.g. a man/a woman.** By contrast, 'an' is to be used with nouns that begin with a vowel sound. **e.g. an avocado/an insect.**

Note: be careful some words start with a vowel letter, which is pronounced as a consonant sound; such as, **a uniform/a European.**

Other uses of 'an' and 'a':

- **Before a definition**

A language is a way of communication.

- **When we are mentioning or referring to someone or something for the first time**

The girl wearing a long red dress.

- **Referring to someone's occupation**

She is a doctor/he is an engineer.

C- Zero Article:

Articles are not always necessary; some words do not need to be preceded by an article. This is what is called a zero article.

Cases of zero article:

- **Before names of people and cities**

John is from Canada.

- **Before countable plural nouns**

I like both cats and dogs.

- Before general statements

I prefer coffee to tea.

- Before uncountable nouns

I need sugar and salt.

Time to practice

Fill in the gaps with the appropriate article in what follows.

- 1) I visitedEiffel Tower last summer.
- 2) David is engineer.
- 3) I want..... cap of coffee.
- 4) I have got new phone.
- 5) girl in the library was so nice.
- 6) exam was so difficult.
- 7) He is such honest person.

References

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- 4- Murdphy. R. (2019). *English Grammar in Use*. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press.