

a the ARTICLES an

a - before a consonant	an – before a vowel
a box	an apple
a cloud	an orange
Note!	
pay attention to the pronunciation rules	
<u>a</u> uniform "Uniform" is pronounced /'ju:nifo:m/, the first sound - /j/, (like sound 'y' in the word "yes"), which is a consonant.	<u>an</u> uncle "Uncle" is pronounced /'ʌŋkl/, the first sound is /ʌ/, a vowel, so we use <u>an</u> .
The indefinite article is used:	
✓ with singular nouns: a cat, a window (NOT <u>a</u> cats)	
✓ before phrases of time and measurements: <i>twice a week, a year, an hour</i> etc.	
✓ with singular nouns after the words "what" and "such": <i>what a day, such a nice pen</i> .	
✓ when we mention someone or something for the first time: <i>I had a book with me</i> .	
✓ with an adjective describing a noun: <i>a good girl, a difficult task</i> etc.	
✓ to refer to a particular member of a group or class:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with names of jobs: <i>John is a doctor</i>. • with religions: <i>Kate is a Catholic</i>. 	
✓ mind the words with silent "h": e.g. <i>an hour, an honor, an honesty</i> etc.	

Ex.1 Choose the correct answer

1. Because there was huge rainstorm, the flight was delayed for more than hour. The airport was full of angry passengers.
2. You said that he was well known player on European football team, his name started with "E", and his jersey had "18" on it. I don't know who you are talking about.
3. That company makes app to let you instantly translate things with iPhone. That's useful tool for frequent traveler.
4. Is this phone number? It's really hard to read. Is that "1" or "7"?
5. With gas prices at all-time high, I wish I didn't drive SUV. I think small compact car would be much more cost-effective way to get around.
6. "Photo" doesn't start with "F"; it starts with "P". And "write" starts with "W", not "R".

2. The

General Rules

- With something already mentioned.
- When there is just one of something.
- With some proper nouns.

Examples

- I took a walk in the forest. (second mention)
- I loved the book my dad gave me.
- The Nile, The Rocky Mountains

3. Ø

General Rules

- Talk about things in general.
- Countries, languages.
- People's names and titles.

Examples

- I love collecting books.
- Have you visited Algeria?
- Do you speak French?
- Professor Smith

Compare **school** and **the school**:



Alison is ten years old. Every day she goes to **school**. She's at **school** now. **School** begins at 9 and finishes at 3.

We say a child goes to **school** or is at **school** (as a pupil). We are not necessarily thinking of a specific school. We are thinking of **school** as a general idea.



Today Alison's mother wants to speak to her daughter's teacher. So she has gone to **the school** to see her. She's at **the school** now.

Alison's mother is not a pupil. She is not 'at school', she doesn't 'go to school'. If she wants to see Alison's teacher, she goes to **the school** (= Alison's school, a specific building).

We use **prison**, **hospital**, **university**, **college** and **church** in a similar way. We do not use **the** when we are thinking of the general idea of these places and what they are used for. Compare:

- ☐ Ken's brother is in **prison** for robbery. (He is a prisoner. We are not thinking of a specific prison.)
- ☐ Joe had an accident last week. He was taken to **hospital**. He's still in **hospital** now. (as a patient)
- ☐ When I leave **school**, I want to go to **university/college**.
- ☐ Sally's father goes to **church** every Sunday. (to a religious service)

- ☐ Ken went to **the prison** to visit his brother. (He went as a visitor, not as a prisoner.)
- ☐ Jane has gone to **the hospital** to visit Joe. She's at **the hospital** now. (as a visitor)
- ☐ Excuse me, where is **the university**, please? (= the university buildings)
- ☐ Some workmen went to **the church** to repair the roof. (not for a religious service)

Bed work home

We say **go to bed / be in bed** etc. (*not* the bed):

- ☐ It's time to go to **bed** now.
- ☐ Do you ever have breakfast **in bed**?

but ☐ I sat down on **the bed**. (a specific piece of furniture)

We say **go to work / be at work / start work / finish work** etc. (*not* the work):

- ☐ Chris didn't go to **work** yesterday.
- ☐ What time do you usually finish **work**?

We say **go home / come home / arrive home / get home / be at home** etc. :

- ☐ It's late. Let's go **home**.
- ☐ Will you be at **home** tomorrow afternoon?

We say **go to sea / be at sea** (without **the**) when the meaning is 'go/be on a voyage':

- ☐ Keith works on ships. He is **at sea** most of the time.

but ☐ I'd like to live near **the sea**.

- ☐ It can be dangerous to swim in **the sea**.

Ex. 2 Put in **the** or **a/an** where necessary. If no word is necessary, leave the space empty.

1 A: Where did you have _____ lunch?

B: We *went* to _____ restaurant.

2 A: Did you have _____ nice holiday?

O: Yes, it was _____ best holiday I've ever had.

3 A: Where's _____ nearest shop?

a: There's one at _____ end of this street.

4 A: Do you often listen to _____ radio?

B: No. In fact I haven't got _____ radio.

5 A: Would you like to travel in _____ space?

B: Yes. I'd love to go to _____ moon.

6 A: Do you go to _____ cinema very often?

O: No, not very often. But I watch a lot of films on _____ television.

It was _____ nice day yesterday, wasn't it?

B: Yes, it was beautiful. We went for a walk by _____ sea.

8 A: What did you have for _____ breakfast this morning?

B: Nothing. I never eat _____ breakfast.

9 A: Excuse me, where is _____ Room 25, please? B: It's on _____ second floor.

10 A: We spent all our money because we stayed at _____ most expensive hotel in town.

B: Why didn't you stay at _____ cheaper hotel?

Ex. 3 Complete the sentences with the word given (school etc.). Use **the** where necessary.

1 (school)

a Every term parents are invited to _____ to meet the teachers.

b Why aren't your children at _____ today? Are they ill?

c When he was younger Ted hated _____.

d What time does _____ usually start in the mornings in your country?

m A: How do your children get home from _____ ? By bus?

e B: No, they walk _____ isn't very far.

f What sort of job does Jenny: want to do when she leaves _____.

There were some people waiting outside _____ to meet their children.

2 (university)

a In your country do many people go to _____?

b If you want to get a degree, you normally have to study at _____.

c This is only a small town, but _____ is one of the biggest in the country.

3 (hospital)

a My brother has always been very healthy. He's never been in _____

b When Ann was ill, I went to _____ to visit her. When I was there,
I met Lisa who is a nurse at

c Peter was injured in an accident and was kept in _____ for a few days.

4 (church)

a John's mother is a regular churchgoer. She goes to _____ every Sunday.

b John himself doesn't go to _____

c John went to _____ to take some photographs of the building.

5 (prison)

a In some places people are in _____ because of their political beliefs.

b A few days ago the fire brigade were called to _____ to put out a fire.

c The judge decided to fine the man £500 instead of sending him to _____.

6 (home/work/bed)

a I like to read in _____ before I go to sleep.

b It's nice to travel around, but there's no place like _____!

c Shall we meet after _____ tomorrow evening?

d If I'm feeling tired, I go to _____ early.

e What time do you usually start _____ in the morning?

f The economic situation was very bad. Many people were out of _____.

7 (sea)

a There's a nice view from the window. You can see _____.

b It was a long voyage. We were at _____ for four weeks.

c I love swimming in _____.

Ex.4 Put in a/an or the.

1 a This house is very nice. Has it got _____ garden?

b It's a beautiful day. Let's sit in _____ garden.

c I like living in this house, but it's a pity that _____ garden is so small.

2 a Can you recommend _____ good restaurant?

b We had dinner in _____ very nice restaurant.

c We had dinner in _____ best restaurant in town.

3 a She has _____ French name, but in fact she's English, not French.

b What's _____ name of that man we met yesterday?

c We stayed at a very nice hotel — I can't remember _____ name now.

4 a There isn't _____ airport near where I live. _____ nearest airport is 70 miles away.

b Our flight was delayed. We had to wait at _____ airport for three hours.

c Excuse me, please. Can you tell me how to get to _____ airport?

- 5 a 'Are you going away next week. "No, _____ week after next.'
- b I'm going away for _____ week in September.
- c Gary has a part-time job. He works three mornings _____ week.