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THE NOUN AND THE ARTICLE: THEORETICAL ASPECTS

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Учебное пособие предназначено для работы на занятиях по практической грамматике у студентов I курса филологического факультета специальности «Английский язык и литература».

В пособии систематизирован и представлен в сжатой форме теоретический материал по темам учебного цикла «The Noun» и «The Article». Целью пособия является систематизация и закрепление навыков владения данными грамматическими категориями.

Предлагаемые материалы могут быть использованы как для аудиторной, так и для самостоятельной работы студентов, а также как теоретическая основа к учебному пособию Н.В. Шаплюк «The Noun and the Article».

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THE NOUN

1. APPROACHES TO DEFINITION

1) The noun is a word expressing substances in the widest sense of the word. In the name of substance we include not only the names of living beings (*boy, girl, bird*) and lifeless things (*table, chair, book*), but also names of abstract notions, i.e. qualities, states, actions (*kindness, strength, sleep, fear, conversation, fight*), abstracted from their bearers. (Kaushanskaya)

2) Nouns are names of objects, i.e. things, human beings, animals, materials and abstract notions (*table, house, man, girl, dog, lion, snow, sugar, love, beauty*). (Gordon, Krylova)

3) A noun is a word that we can use at certain points in the structure of a sentence. Thus, *work* is a noun if it fills the gap in *He always did his - perfectly*. It is a verb if it fills the gap in *His brother - in a factory*. (R.Close)

4) A noun is used to identify a person or thing. (Cobuilt English Grammar)

2. MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The noun has the following morphological characteristics:

1) Nouns that can be counted have two numbers: singular and plural. (the category of number)

2) Nouns denoting living beings (and some nouns denoting lifeless things) have two case forms: the common case and the genitive case. (the category of case)

3. SYNTACTICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The noun has certain syntactical characteristics. The chief syntactical functions of the noun in the sentence are those of the **subject** and the **object**. But it may also be used as an **attribute** or a **predicative**, in prepositional combinations it can serve as an **adverbial modifier**.

The sun was rising in all his splendid beauty. (Dickens) (SUBJECT)
 Troy and Yates followed *the tourists*. (Heym) (OBJECT)
 He (Bosinney) was an *architect* ... (Gals-worthy) (PREDICATIVE)
 Mary brought in the fruit on a tray and with it a *glass* bowl, and a blue dish...
 (Mansfield) (ATTRIBUTE; the noun **glass** is used in the common case)
 The hero and heroine, of course, just arrived from his *father's* yacht.
 (Mansfield) (ATTRIBUTE; the noun **father** is used in the genitive case)

A noun preceded by a preposition (a prepositional phrase) may be used as **attribute, prepositional indirect object, and adverbial modifier.**

To the left were clean panes of *glass*. (Ch. Bronte) (ATTRIBUTE)
 Bicket did not answer, his throat felt too dry. He had heard of the *police*.
 (dais-worthy) (OBJECT)
 She went *into the drawing-room* and lighted the fire. (Mansfield)
 (ADVERBIAL MODIFIER)
 "Stop everything, Laura!" cried Jose *in astonishment*. (Mansfield)
 (ADVERBIAL MODIFIER)

The noun is generally modified by the **article**. Because of the comparative scarcity of morphological distinctions in English in some cases only articles show that the word is a noun.

A noun can be also modified by an adjective, a pronoun, by another noun or by verbals.

4. MORPHOLOGICAL COMPOSITION OF NOUNS

According to their morphological composition we distinguish **simple, derivative and compound** nouns.

1) **Simple nouns** are nouns which have neither prefixes nor suffixes. They are indecomposable: *chair, table, room, map, fish, work*.

2) **Derivative nouns** are nouns which have derivative elements (prefixes or suffixes or both): *reader, sailor, blackness, childhood, misconduct, inexperience*.

Typical noun-forming suffixes are:

a) NOUNS INDICATING PERSONS:

-er¹ *driver, employer, examiner,*

The spelling rules apply as for the past tense of regular verbs.

Thus we have: *writer, player, occupier, runner, beginner,*

¹ -er may sometimes indicate the thing that performs the action, as in *cooker, dryer, lighter, roller, screwdriver, tape-recorder*. 'A ruler' may refer to a person or thing.

	<i>traveller</i> , except that monosyllabic words ending in consonant+ y may retain the y: <i>flier</i> or <i>flier</i> ;
-or	<i>actor, collector, editor, protector, sailor, visitor</i> ;
-ar	<i>beggar, liar</i> ;
-ant	<i>assistant, attendant, servant</i> ;
-ist	<i>chemist, scientist, typist</i> ;
-ee	(passive meaning) <i>employee</i> (someone who is employed) <i>referee</i> (someone who is referred to), <i>refugee</i> (someone who is forced to take refuges). Stress falls on the suffix <i>ee</i> .

b) ABSTRACT NOUNS DERIVED FROM VERBS

-age	<i>breakage, drainage, leakage</i>
-al	<i>approval, arrival, refusal</i>
-ance/-ence	<i>acceptance, appearance, performance, existence</i>
-ery	<i>delivery, discovery, recovery</i>
-ment	<i>agreement, arrangement, employment</i>
-tion/-sion	<i>education, organisation, collision, decision, division</i>
-ure	<i>departure, failure, closure</i>
-dom	<i>freedom</i>
-hood	<i>neighbourhood</i>
-ship	<i>friendship</i>

c) ABSTRACT NOUNS DERIVED FROM ADJECTIVES

-ance, -ence	<i>importance, absence, presence</i>
-ity/-ty	<i>ability, activity, equality, poverty</i>
-ness	<i>darkness, happiness, kindness</i>
-th	<i>length, strength, truth</i>

3) **Compound nouns** are built from two or more stems, but they often have only one stress. The meaning of a compound often differs from the meanings of its elements. For example, someone's 'mother-tongue' is not the tongue of their mother but the language they learn as a child and an 'old hand' is not a hand which is old but a person who is experienced at doing a particular job.

The main types of compound nouns are as follows:

- noun + noun: *apple tree, snowball*;
- adjective + noun: *blackbird, bluebell*;
- verb + noun: *pickpocket*.
- gerund + noun: *driving licence, diving board*;
- noun + gerund: *fruit picking, weight-lifting* etc.

Compound nouns are written

- (f) as one word: railway, headache;
- (g) with a hyphen: tooth-brush, mouse-trap;
- (h) as two (or more) words: flower shop, police station.

There are unfortunately no clear rules that can tell us when the compound is written as (a), (b) or (c). A good modern dictionary is the only reliable guide. Generally speaking, a compound tends to be written as one word the more often it is used.

Note that the first element in a compound normally keeps the singular form. Thus:

A flower shop is a shop where flowers are sold.

A bookcase is a case where books are kept.

A toothbrush is a brush for cleaning teeth.

This happens with a few of the words ending in -s, as in

a trouser leg, a trouser pocket

a spectacle case (=case for holding spectacles)

pyjama tops (tops of pyjamas)

But, normally, nouns ending in -s retain the -s in compounds, as in

newspaper, clothes hanger, means test, goods train, lodgings bureau, savings bank.

5. CLASSIFICATION OF NOUNS

Nouns fall under two classes:

a) proper nouns (*George, George Lamb, New York*);

b) common nouns (*friend, desk, bird, air*). The name proper is from Latin *proprius* «one's own». Hence a proper name means one's own individual name, as distinct from a common name, that can be given to a class of individuals. The name *common* is from Latin *communis* and means that which is shared by several things or individuals possessing some common characteristic.

Both proper nouns and common nouns can refer to something animate (*George, friend, bird*) and inanimate (*New York, desk, wing*).

1) Proper nouns

Proper nouns are individual names given to separate persons or things. Proper nouns are spelled with capital letters. Proper nouns may be

(I) personal names: *Mary, Peter, Shakespeare*;

(II) geographical names: *Moscow, London, the Caucasus*;

(III) the names of the months and the days of the week: *February, Monday*;

(IV) names of ships, hotels, clubs, newspapers etc.: *The Wall Street Journal*.

According to some scholars here also belong

(V) relationship nouns - nouns that refer to relationship between people in a family, such as 'mother', 'dad', 'aunt', 'grandpa', and 'son' when used like names to address people or refer to them. They are then spelled with a capital letter: *I'm sure Mum will be pleased.*

(VI) titles - words which show someone's social status or job. You use a title in front of a person's name, usually their surname or their full name, when you are talking about them in a fairly formal way or are showing respect to them.

...*Doctor Baker.*

... *Lord Curzon.*

...*Captain Jack Langtry.*

...*Mrs. Ford.*

Here is a list of the most common titles which are used before names:

Admiral	Dame	Lord	Princess
Archbishop	Doctor	Major	Private
Baron	Emperor	Miss	Professor
Baroness	Father	Mr.	Queen
Bishop	General	Mrs.	Saint
Brother	Governor	Ms	Sergeant
Captain	Inspector	Nurse	Sir
Cardinal	Justice	Police Constable	Sister
Colonel	King	Pope	
Constable	Lady	President	
Corporal	Lieutenant	Prince	

Most words which are titles can be also common countable nouns, usually without a capital letter.

...*lawyers, scholars, poets, presidents and so on.*

...*a foreign prince.*

...*May be he'll be a Prime Minister one day.*

The determiner is not spelled with a capital letter (...the *University of Birmingham*), except in the names of books, plays, and paintings.

...The *Grapes of Wrath.*

...A *Midsummer Night's Dream.*

2) Common nouns

Common nouns are names that can be applied to any individual of a class of persons or things (*man, dog, book*), collections of similar individuals or things regarded as a single unit (*peasantry, family*), materials (*snow, iron, cotton*) or abstract notions (*kindness, development*).

Thus there are 4 different groups of common nouns: class nouns, collective nouns, nouns of material and abstract nouns.

Nouns can be also classified from another point of view:

-nouns denoting things that can be counted - countable (count) nouns;

-nouns denoting things that cannot be counted - uncountable (uncount) nouns.

(I) **Class nouns** denote persons or things belonging to a class. They are countable and have two numbers: singular and plural. They are generally used with an article.

*‘‘Well, sir,’’ said Mrs. Parker, ‘I wasn’t in the **shop** above a great deal.’’
(Mansfield) *He goes to the part of the town where the **shops** are.* (Lessing)*

(II) **Collective nouns** denote a number or collection of similar individuals or things regarded as a single unit.

Collective nouns fall under the following groups:

(a) nouns used only in the singular and denoting a number of things collected together and regarded as a single object: *foliage, machinery.*

*It was not restless, that green **foliage**.* (London)

***Machinery** new to the industry in Australia was introduced for preparing land.* (Agricultural Gazette)

(b) nouns which are singular in form though plural in meaning: police, poultry, people, gentry. They are usually called nouns of multitude. When the subject of the sentence is a noun of multitude the verb used as predicate is in plural:

*I had no idea the **police were** so devilishly prudent.* (Shaw)

*Unless **cattle are** in good condition in calving, milk production will never reach a high level.* (Agricultural Gazette)

*The weather was warm and the **people were** sitting at their doors.* (Dickens)

(c) nouns that may be both singular and plural: family, crowd, fleet, nation. We can think of a number of crowds, fleets or different nations as well as of a single crowd, fleet, etc.

*A small **crowd** is lined up to see the guests arrive.* (Shaw)

*Accordingly they were soon afoot, and walking in the direction of the scene of action, towards which **crowds** of people were already pouring from a variety of quarters.* (Dickens)

(III) **Nouns of material** denote material: iron, gold, paper, tea, water. They are uncountable and are generally used without any article.

*There was a scent of **honey** from the lime-trees in flower.* (Galsworthy)

*There was **coffee** still in the urn.* (Wells)

Nouns of material are used in the plural to denote different sorts of a given material:

...that his senior counted upon him in this enterprise, and had consigned a quantity of select wines to him... (Thackeray)

Nouns of material may turn into class nouns (thus becoming countable) when they come to express an individual object of definite shape.

Compare:

To the left were clean panes of **glass**. (Ch. Brontë)
 'He came in here', said the waiter looking at the light through the tumbler,
 'ordered a **glass** of this ale.' (Dickens)

(IV) **Abstract nouns** denote some quality, state, action or idea: kindness, sadness, fight. They are usually uncountable, though some of them may be countable (*idea, hour*)

*Therefore when the youngsters saw that mother looked neither frightened nor offended, they gathered new **courage**.* (Dodge)

*Accustomed to John Reed's abuse – I never had an **idea** of replying it.* (Ch. Brontë)

*It's these people with fixed **ideas**.* (Galsworthy)

Abstract nouns may change their meaning and become class nouns. This change is marked by the use of the article and of the plural number:

beauty	a beauty	beauties
sight	a sight	sights

*He was responsive to **beauty** and here was cause to respond.* (London)

*She was a **beauty**.* (Dickens)

*...but she isn't one of those horrid regular **beauties**.* (Aldington)

6. GENDER

English nouns are not masculine, feminine, or neuter in the way that nouns in some other languages are. For example, most names of jobs, such as 'teacher', 'doctor', and 'writer', are used for both men and women. Thus, to masculine gender belong nouns indicating men, boys and male animals (pronoun he/they); to feminine gender belong nouns indicating women, girls and female animals (pronoun she/they); to neuter gender – inanimate things, animals whose sex we don't know and sometimes babies whose sex we don't know (pronoun it/they).

Exceptions: ships and sometimes cars and other vehicles when regarded with affection or respect are considered feminine. Countries when referred to by name are also normally considered feminine.

The ship struck an iceberg, which tore a huge hole in her side.

Scotland lost many of her bravest men in two great rebellions.

The following nouns have different masculine/feminine distinctions expressed lexically:

boy, girl	gentleman, lady	duke, duchess
bachelor, spinster	man, woman	prince, princess

bridegroom, bride
father, mother
son, daughter
husband, wife

uncle, aunt
nephew, niece
king, queen
lord, lady

earl, countess
widower, widow

The majority of nouns indicating occupation have the same form:

<i>artist</i>	<i>cook</i>	<i>driver</i>	<i>guide</i>
<i>assistant</i>	<i>dancer</i>	<i>doctor</i>	etc.

Main exceptions:

actor, actress
conductor, conductress
heir, heiress
hero, heroine

host, hostess
manager, manageress
steward, stewardess
waiter, waitress

Words that refer to women often end in *'-woman'*, for example *'policewoman'*, *'needlewoman'*. Words ending in *'-man'* are either used to refer to men or to both men and women. For example, a *'postman'* is a man, but a *'spokesperson'* can be a man or a woman.

Some people now use words ending in *'-person'*, such as *'chairperson'* and *'spokesperson'*, instead of words ending in *'-man'*, in order to avoid appearing to refer specifically to a man.

Most names of animals are used to refer to both male and female animals, for example *'cat'*, *'elephant'*, *'horse'*, *'monkey'*, and *'sheep'*.

In some cases there are different words that refer specifically to male animals or female animals, for example a male horse is a *'stallion'* and a female horse is a *'mare'*.

In other cases the general name for the animal is also the specific word for males or females: *'dog'* also refers more specifically to male dogs, *'duck'* also refers more specifically to female ducks.

Many of these specific words are rarely used, or used mainly by people who have a special interest in animals, such as farmers or vets.

Here is a list of some common specific words for male and female animals:

stallion	dog	gander	buck	tiger
mare	bitch	goose	hind	tigress
~	~	~	~	
bull	drake	lion	stag	
cow	duck	lioness	doe	
~	~	~	~	
cock	fox	ram	boar	
hen	vixen	ewe	sow	

7. NUMBER

Number is the form of the noun which shows whether one or more than one object is meant.

Some nouns in English may have the singular and the plural forms (*room – rooms*). Other nouns are used either in the singular (*freedom*) or only in the plural (*spectacles*).

(1) The general rule for forming the plural of English nouns is by adding the ending *-s/-es* to the singular; *-s* is pronounced in different ways:

[iz] after sibilants: *noses, horses, bridges*.

[z] after voiced consonants other than sibilants and after vowels: *flowers, beds, doves, bees, boys*.

[s] after voiceless consonants other than sibilants: *caps, books, hats, cliffs*.

(2) If the noun ends in *-s, -ss, -x, -sh, -ch, or -tch*, the plural is formed by adding *-es* to the singular:

bus — buses box — boxes bench — benches
glass — glasses brush — brushes match — matches

(3) If the noun ends in *-y* preceded by a consonant, *y* is changed into *i* before *-es*.
fly — flies army — armies lady — ladies

In proper names, however, the plural is formed by adding the ending *-s* to the singular: *Mary, Marys*.

Note.—If the final *-y* is preceded by a vowel the plural is formed by simply adding *-s* to the singular.

day — days monkey — monkeys
play — plays toy — toys
key — keys boy — boys

(4) If the noun ends in *-o* preceded by a consonant, the plural is generally formed by adding *-es*.

hero — heroes
potato — potatoes
echo — echoes

But words of foreign origin or abbreviated words ending in *-o* add *-s* only:

dynamo — dynamos kimono — kimonos piano — pianos
kilo — kilos photo — photos soprano — sopranos

All nouns ending in *-o* preceded by a vowel form the plural in *-s* and not in *-es*:

cuckoo — cuckoos
portfolio — portfolios

There are a few nouns ending in *-o* which form the plural both in *-s* and *-es*. The *-e-* is optional in *buffalo(e)s, cargo(e)s, commando(e)s, grotto(e)s, halo(e)s, mosquito(e)s, tornado(e)s, volcano(e)s*.

Proper names do not have *-e-* in the spelling: *Eskimos, Filipinos*.

(5) With certain nouns the final voiceless consonants are changed into the corresponding voiced consonants when the noun takes the plural form.

a) A few nouns ending in *-f (-fe)* drop the *f (fe)* and add *-ves*. These nouns are

<i>calf-calves</i>	<i>self-selves</i>
<i>elf-elves</i>	<i>sheaf-sheaves</i>
<i>half-halves</i>	<i>shelf-shelves</i>
<i>knife-knives</i>	<i>thief-thieves</i>
<i>leaf-leaves</i>	<i>turf-turves</i>
<i>life-lives</i>	<i>wife-wives</i>
<i>loaf-loaves</i>	<i>wolf-wolves</i>

The nouns *hoof, scarf* and *wharf* take either *s* or *ves* in the plural: *hoofs / hooves, scarfs / scarves, wharfs / wharves*.

Other nouns ending in *-f (-fe)* add *-s* in the ordinary way:

cliff-cliffs handkerchief - handkerchiefs safe-safes

N o t e. *Handkerchiefs* and *roofs* regular in spelling, may end in pronunciation with [fs] or [vz].

b) Nouns ending in *-th [θ]* after long vowels change it into [ð] in pronunciation (which does not affect their spelling):

bath [ba: θ]-*baths* [baðs]
path [pa: θ]-*paths* [paðs]

The same applies to *mouth, oath, sheath, truth, wreath, youth* and can also apply to *berth* and *birth*.

But [θ] is always retained after consonants (including *r*) and short vowels:

smith-smiths [-θs]
month-months [-θs]
myth-myths [-θs]
birth-births [-θs]
health-healths [-θs]

(c) In *house* final [s] changes it into [z] in pronunciation: *house* [haus] - *houses* [hauziz].

(6) The plural forms of some nouns are survivals of earlier formations.

a) There are seven nouns which form the plural by changing the root vowel:

man-men	goose-geese
woman-women [wimin]	mouse-mice
foot-feet	louse-lice
tooth-teeth	

The spelling *-men* occurs in *airman / airmen, fireman / firemen, gentleman / gentlemen, postman / postmen, workman / workmen*. The plural is regular in *Germans, Romans, and the Bowmans*.

b) The plurals of *ox* and *child* are *oxen* and *children*.

c) *Brethren* survives as a plural of brother but it is only used in religious context; otherwise the plural of *brother* is *brothers*.

d) *Pence* survives as a plural of penny, but only to indicate a total amount as in *The fare is now tenpence*. *Tenpence* may refer to one silver coin or to ten individual pennies, i.e. coins worth a penny each. *Pennies* might be regarded as a 'separate' plural, pence as a collective one.

(7) Distinguish between the following two uses of people:

Most people (=persons) are good at heart.

Most peoples (=races) have a country of their own.

(8) Names of certain creatures do not change in the plural.

a) *Fish* is normally unchanged. *Fishes* exists but is uncommon. Some types of fish do not normally change in the plural:

<i>carp</i>	<i>pike</i>	<i>salmon</i>	<i>trout</i>
<i>cod</i>	<i>plaice</i>	<i>squid</i>	<i>turbot</i>

but if used in a plural sense they would take a plural verb: *two separate fishes*.

Others add *-s*:

<i>crabs</i>	<i>herrings</i>	<i>sardines</i>
<i>eels</i>	<i>lobsters</i>	<i>sharks</i>

b) *Deer, swine* and *sheep* do not change: *one sheep, two sheep*.

c) The names of many animals and birds have two forms (sing. and pl.). However, when you are referring to them in the context of hunting them or when you are saying that there are large numbers of them, it is quite common to use the form without *-s*, even though you are referring to several animals or birds:

They hunted gazelle.

Note that the plural form of the verb is used when several animals are the subject of the sentence, even if you use the form without *-s*:

Zebra are a more difficult prey.

(9) Similarly, when you are referring to a large number of trees or plants growing together, you can use the singular form of their name. When you are referring to a small number or to individual trees or plants, you usually use the form with *-s*:

...the rows of willow and cypress which lined the creek.

...the poplars and willows along the Peshawar Road.

(10) A few other words don't change in the plural:

aircraft, craft (boat, boats)

quid (slang for £1)

counsel (barristers working in court)

(11) There is no separate plural form for nouns, meaning 'a person or people of that nationality', ending in the sound [z] or [s]: *a hundred of Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Swiss.*

(12) a) In definite numbers and measurements, *hundred, thousand, million, dozen, score* (=20), *gross* (144), *stone* (=14 pounds), *hundredweight, head* (of cattle) have the same form for singular and plural. Thus:

a hundred pages

two hundred dollars

three thousand four hundred men

The normal span of a man's life is three score and ten (years).

The farmer was too fat: he weighed nineteen stone.

He owned a hundred head of cattle.

b) The normal plural is found with indefinite numbers, as in

I've told you that dozens of times, hundreds of times.

All that happened thousands of years ago.

But *gross* and *head* (of cattle) do not occur in the separate plural form.

c) *Foot*, as a measurement, can occur in the plural as well as the singular.

George is six foot / feet tall.

d) Only the singular form is normally used when a measurement comes before the head in a nominal group, as in *a fivepenny piece, a four-foot pole, a two mile walk, a five pound note.*

(13) Latin, Greek and French plurals occur in a number of words borrowed from the languages concerned, though there is a strong tendency to make the plural of those words conform to the general rule of forming the plural and to restrict foreign plural to specialised uses in scientific context.

- a) Singular ending in *-us*, plural is *-i*, pronounced [ai] or [i:]:
singular: *radius, stimulus*
plural: *radii, stimuli*

This rule applies to *bacillus, cactus, fungus, nucleus, terminus*. However, *terminuses, cactuses* and *radiuses* are also used, both by people who do not know the foreign plural and by those who purposely avoid it. Regard other words ending in *-us* as regular (genius-geniuses), except those in the following section (13b).

- b) Singular ending in *-us*, plural in *-era* or *-ora*, pronounced [ɛrɜ]:
genus, corpus *genera, corpora*

- c) Singular ending in *-a*, plural in *-ae*, pronounced [ai] or [i:]:
amoeba, antenna, formula, nebula *amoebae, antennae, formulae, nebulae*

Formulas is being increasingly adopted, with *formulae* reserved for scientific contexts.

- d) Singular ending in *-um*, plural in *-a*, pronounced [ɜ]:
curriculum - *curricula*

A l s o: *bacterium, desideratum, erratum, medium, memorandum, stratum, symposium.*

The plural ending, *-a*, occurs in *agenda* and *data*, though *agenda* is generally accepted as a countable noun, singular, as in

Is there an agenda for the meeting?

while *data* is used both as mass noun and as countable noun plural:

The results of the experiment are still uncertain: there is / are not enough datayet.

- e) Singular ending in *-is*, plural in *-es*, pronounced [i:z]
analysis *analyses*

A l s o: *axis, basis, crisis, diagnosis, hypothesis, neurosis, oasis, parenthesis, synopsis, thesis.*

f) Singular ending in *-on*, plural in *-a*, pronounced [ə]:
criterion, phenomenon *criteria, phenomena*

g) Singular ending in *-ex* or *-ix*, plural in *-ices*, pronounced [isi:z]:
appendix, index, matrix *appendices, indices, matrices*

However, these foreign plurals are usually reserved for scientific contexts. *Indexes* is used to refer to lists at the end of books, and *matrixes* is used with reference to gramophone records.

h) Singular ending in *-eau*, pronounced [ou], plural in *-eaux*, pronounced [ou] or [ouz]:
bureau *bureaux*

Also: *plateau, portmanteau, tableau, trousseau*.

g) Musicians usually prefer Italian plural forms for Italian musical terms:
libretto, tempo *libretti, tempi*

But *librettos, tempos* is also possible.

(14) A number of words ending in *-ics*, *acoustics, ethics, hysterics, mathematics, physics, politics* etc., which are plural in form, normally take a plural verb:

The acoustics in this room are unreliable.

But names of sciences can sometimes be considered singular:
Mathematics is an exact science.

The verb may be singular or plural in the following:

George's mathematics is / are not so good as it was / were.

(15) Words plural in form but singular in meaning include

- *news*:

The news is good.

- certain diseases:

mumps rickets shingles

- certain games:

billiards darts draughts

bowls dominoes

(16) The following words are used as singular with reference to one unit, or as plural with reference to more than one:

We must find a means (a way) of solving our problem.

There are several means (ways) of solving it.

Similarly:

<i>barracks</i>	<i>gallows</i>	<i>golf-links</i>	<i>innings</i>	<i>series</i>
<i>bellows</i>	<i>gasworks</i>	<i>headquarters</i>	<i>kennels</i>	<i>species</i>

(I) We can say either *a bellows* or *a pair of bellows*.

(II) Side by side with a *kennel*, plural *kennels*, we have a *kennels*, i.e. a collection of kennels where dogs are kept.

(III) The + *innings*, *series*, *species*, referring to one unit only, is used with a singular verb. The + any other word in this section may occur with a singular or plural verb, whether it refers to one unit or more.

(17) The following nouns are used either with a plural verb and with *these*, or in the construction *a pair of*..

These trousers (ie this garment) are } *-too tight for me.*
 = *This pair of trousers* is
George has ten pairs of trousers.

A numeral does not occur immediately before words in this group, which includes:

<i>binoculars</i>	<i>pincers</i>	<i>scissors</i>	<i>tongs</i>
<i>knickers</i>	<i>glasses</i>	<i>shorts</i>	<i>tweezers</i>
<i>braces (towear)</i>	<i>pliers</i>	<i>spectacles</i>	
<i>pants</i>	<i>pyjamas</i>	(= <i>glasses</i>)	
<i>breeches</i>	<i>scales</i>	<i>tights</i>	

(18) The following nouns are used only in the plural, with a plural verb, not with a numeral.

<i>(make) amends</i>	<i>bounds (= boundary)</i>
<i>annals</i>	<i>clothes</i>
<i>archives</i>	<i>congratulations</i>
<i>arms (= weapons)</i>	<i>credentials</i>
<i>arrears</i>	<i>damages (= compensation)</i>
<i>ashes (= human remains)</i>	<i>dregs</i>
<i>auspices</i>	<i>earnings</i>
<i>banns</i>	<i>entrails</i>
<i>belongings</i>	<i>goods</i>

<i>looks (= appearance)</i>	<i>resources</i>
<i>manners (= behaviour)</i>	<i>riches</i>
<i>misgivings</i>	<i>shortcomings</i>
<i>odds</i>	<i>suds</i>
<i>outskirts</i>	<i>surroundings</i>
<i>pains (trouble)</i>	<i>thanks</i>
<i>particulars (detailed information)</i>	<i>the Antipodes</i>
<i>premises (= buildings)</i>	<i>the Middle Ages</i>
<i>proceeds</i>	<i>the tropics</i>
<i>provisions (= food supplies)</i>	<i>tidings</i>
<i>quarters (= lodgings)</i>	<i>valuables</i>
<i>regards</i>	<i>whereabouts</i>
<i>remains</i>	

Notice the difference between the pairs of words in bold type:

- 1 a) *X was found guilty of causing **damage** to Y's property.*
b) *and was ordered to pay **damages**.*
- 2 a) May I have a **look** at your magazine?
b) The accident has spoilt my good looks.
- 3 a) How much do you pay for board and lodging?
b) Come round to my **lodgings** and we'll have a party.
- 4 a) I didn't like that man's **manner** (= attitude).
b) George has very good **manners** (=ways of behaving).
- 5 a) A **minute** is a short official note or memorandum.
b) The official records of a meeting are called the **minutes**.
- 6 a) We can make a considerable **saving** (= economy) by selling the car.
b) Then we can use our **savings** (= money saved) to buy some new furniture.
- 7 a) In some countries, a minimum **wage** is fixed by law.
b) Mr. Turner takes all his **wages** home to his wife.
- 8 a) We were all enchanted by his **wit**.
b) The ladies were frightened out of their **wits**.

(19) In all the words above mentioned the final *-s* is pronounced. It is only pronounced in the plural in *chassis* and *corps*, thus:

SINGULAR: *chassis* [ˈæsi], *corps* [ko:]

PLURAL: *chassis* [ˈæsiz], *corps* [ko:z]

(20) **Collective nouns.** Using a collective noun in the singular, we can say either

The committee, crew, staff etc. is . . .

or

The committee, crew, staff etc. are . . .

In the plural, only *The committees etc are . . .* is possible.

(21) Individual members of a group can be referred to as
members of the committee, crew, staff, etc.

or

committee members, crew members, staff members, etc.

With *crew* and *staff*, we may sometimes hear expressions like *ten crew* (= ten members of the crew), *fifty staff*. *Ten crewmen* is also current.

(22) A few collective nouns occur only in the singular, but with a singular or plural verb:

The clergy / gentry / youth of today is /are trying to adapt itself / themselves to rapidly changing circumstances.

(23) Other collective nouns occur only in the singular form but with a plural verb:

These cattle are on their way to market.

These people are waiting for their passports.

Police (= policemen) are controlling the crowds.

Vermin are harmful animals or insects.

Reference to individual members of the group is made thus: *a hundred head of cattle; thirty people; fifty police or fifty policemen.*

(24) *Offspring* can refer to one human or animal and take a singular verb, or to more than one, with a plural verb: it has no plural form.

(25) *Folk*, meaning 'people' occurs mainly in the singular, though also in the plural, but only with a plural verb: *Some folk(s) are . . .*

(26) **Compounds.** Compounds whose final element is a mass (uncount) noun have no plural forms: *homework, moonlight, sunshine*. Compounds whose final element is a count noun have a plural ending which normally comes at the end of the compound: *railways, bookcases, tooth-brushes, information offices*.

(27) In compounds whose first element is man or woman, both elements normally become plural: *menservants, men students, women students, women drivers, gentlemen farmers*.

The first element is always singular in *man-holes, woman-haters*, where emphasis is on *holes* and *haters* rather than on *man* and *woman*.

The first element keeps the singular form in *boy friends, girl friends, lady drivers*.

(28) Compounds consisting of count noun + preposition or prepositional phrase, take the plural on the noun element:

looker-on – lookers-on

passer-by – passers-by

brother-in-law – brothers-in-law

grant-in-aid – grants-in-aid

man-of-war – men-of-war

(29) Compounds formed by verb or adjective + preposition take the plural inflexion at the end: close-ups, grown-ups, lay-bys, pullovers, sit-ins, stand-bys, take-offs.

(30) Nouns ending in *-ful* tend to follow the pattern *bucketfuls*, *mouthfuls*, *spoonfuls*, though *spoonsful* etc. are also found; and the plural of *bucket full of water* will always be *buckets full of water*.

(31) The few compounds, typical of legal English, on the pattern count noun + adjective take the plural inflexion on the noun, as in *attorneys general*, *courts-martial*, *notaries public*.

(32) Initials can be made plural:

MPs (Members of Parliament)

VIPs (very important persons)

OAPs (old age pensioners)

UFOs (unidentified flying objects)

8. The Genitive

(1) The genitive form with apostrophe *s* is used with personal nouns and personal indefinite pronouns to indicate possession, as in

John's name, i.e. the name that John has

somebody (else)'s opinion

N o t e: Apostrophe *s* does not always indicate possession: for example, *John's present* can be the present that John received, or will receive, or gave, or will give. *John's mistake* is the mistake that John makes or made.

(2) The genitive can also be used with the names of animals, though it is more likely to occur with domestic animals or with those that are credited with some intelligence, than with creatures of a lower order. Thus,

a cat's tail, *a dog's bark*, *an elephant's trunk*.

(3) *The boy's cap* is an example of genitive singular.

The boys' school - of genitive plural.

The pronunciation of *of boys*, *boy's* and *boys'* is exactly the same. So is the pronunciation of the words in bold type in

GENITIVE SINGULAR PLURAL	ORDINARY PLURAL	GENITIVE PLURAL
<i>a lady's handbag</i>	<i>ladies</i>	<i>the ladies' room</i>
<i>a hero's name</i>	<i>heroes</i>	<i>the heroes' welcome</i>
<i>Mr Jones's cousin</i>	<i>the Joneses</i>	<i>the Joneses' house</i>

Notice what happens with nouns whose plural is irregular and with compounds like *brother-in-law*:

GENITIVE SINGULAR ORDINARY PLURAL GENITIVE PLURAL

<i>a child's toy</i>	<i>children</i>	<i>children's games</i>
<i>a deer's tracks</i>	<i>deer</i>	<i>the deer's tracks</i>
<i>a man's work</i>	<i>men</i>	<i>a men's club</i>
<i>a woman's privilege</i>	<i>women</i>	<i>women's rights</i>
<i>a wife's troubles</i>	<i>wives</i>	<i>old wives' tales</i>
<i>my brother-in-law's car</i>	<i>brothers-in-law</i>	<i>my brothers-in-law's property</i>
<i>the King of Spain's daughter</i>	<i>the Kings of Spain</i>	<i>the daughters of the Kings of Spain</i>

The reader may safely deduce his own rules from those examples.

(4) If something belongs to more than one person or thing whose names are linked by 'and', the apostrophe s ('s) is put after the second name – the group genitive:

...*Helen and Tim's apartment.*

...*Colin and Mary's relationship.*

The crowd met outside father and mother's house.

But if you want to say that two people or things each possess part of a group of things, both their names have apostrophe s ('s):

The puppy was a superb blend of his father's and mother's best qualities.

(5) 's can be also used after the initials:

the PM's secretary, the MP's briefcase, the VIP's escort

(6) The genitive of nouns whose singular ends in s is normally regular in spelling:

St James's Palace

St Thomas's Hospital

In pronunciation, it normally follows the rule of the plural form of the

nouns, *ie* it has an extra syllable, [iz]. But we sometimes find only an apostrophe, with or without the extra syllable, as in *Keats' poetry* (the poetry of Keats) and *Pepys' Diary* (the Diary of John Pepys, [pi:ps]). An apostrophe with no extra syllable is normal after Greek names, especially if they are long, as in *Archimedes' Law, Pythagoras's Theorem, Sophocles' plays*

(7) The genitive with apostrophe *s* is not normally used with inanimate nouns¹. Instead, the noun is postmodified by a phrase beginning with *of*, as in *the leg of the chair, the foot of the mountain*

That construction can be freely used with inanimate nouns. An alternative is available in cases like the following:

<i>the side of the</i>	}	<i>road</i> <i>hill</i> <i>mountain</i>	or	<i>the</i>	}	<i>roadside</i> <i>hillside</i> <i>mountain</i>
<i>the top of</i>	{	<i>the hill</i> <i>mountain</i>	or	<i>the</i>	{	<i>hilltop</i> <i>mountaintop</i>

(8) The possessive case is chiefly used of people, countries or animals as shown above. It can also be used:

(I) of ships and boats: *the ship's bell, the yacht's mast*;

(II) of planes, trains, cars and other vehicles, though here the *of* construction is safer:

a glider's wings or *the wings of a glider*
the train's heating or *the heating system of the train*

(III) in time expressions:

a week's holiday *today's paper* *tomorrow's weather*
in two years' time *ten minutes' break* *two hours' delay*

But: *a ten-minute break, a two-hour delay* are also possible:

We have ten minutes' break / a ten-minute break.

(IV) with nouns denoting distances: *a mile's distance*;

(V) optionally with inanimate nouns that refer to a group of people, to places where people live, to human institutions and so on, as in
Africa's future *America's resources*

¹ There is a current tendency to use expressions like *the chemical's effect* in oral (*ie* radio) news reporting.

<i>the committee's business</i>	<i>the club's finances</i>
<i>the country's needs</i>	<i>the earth's surface</i>
<i>London's traffic</i>	<i>the nation's affairs;</i>

(VI) in expressions of money + **worth**:

£ 1's worth of stamps *ten dollars' worth of ice-cream;*

(VII) with **for** + **noun** + **sake**: *for heaven's sake, for goodness's sake;*

(VIII) in a few expressions such as:

journey's end *the water's edge;*

(IX) in set expressions as in:

<i>have smth. at one's finger's ends</i>	<i>be only a stone's throw away</i>
<i>keep someone at arm's length</i>	<i>be at one's wits' end</i>
<i>keep out of harm's way</i>	<i>be at death's door</i>
<i>do smth. to one's heart content</i>	<i>a hair's breadth.</i>

(X) We can say either *a winter's day* or *a winter day* and *a summer's day* or *a summer day*, but we cannot make spring or autumn possessive, except when they are personified: *Autumn's return.*

(XI) Sometimes certain nouns can be used in the possessive case without the second noun. *a (the) baker's / butcher's / chemist's / flourist's ...* can mean '*a (the) baker's / butcher's ... shop*'. Similarly, *a (the) house agent's / travel agent's ... (office)* ; *the dentist's / doctor's / vet's (surgery)*:

You can buy it at the chemist's.
He's going to the dentist's.

(XII) Names of the owners of some business can be used similarly:
Sotheby's, Claridge's;

(XIII) Some very well-known shops etc. call themselves by the possessive form and some drop the apostrophe:
Foyles, Harrods.

(XIV) Names of people can sometimes be used similarly to mean '___'s house':

We had lunch at Bill's.
We met at Ann's.

(9) The genitive with apostrophe *s* is normally replaced by an of-phrase

when the possessor noun is followed by a phrase or clause:

The boys ran about, obeying the directions of a man with a whistle.
I took the advice of a couple I met on the train and hired a car.

(10) The double genitive. A so-called double-genitive occurs in examples like
a friend of my father's *that dog of Robert's*
with the meaning 'one of the friends that my father has', 'that dog that Robert has'.

This construction is obligatory when the speaker wishes to use more than one of the certain set of modifiers in the same nominal group, ie when the speaker wants to combine the determiners *a, this, that, these* or *those*:

That new dress of Susan's must have been terribly expensive.
What shall I do with all these / those old books of yours?

THE ARTICLE

9. FUNCTIONS OF THE ARTICLES

The articles have **morphologic**, **syntactic** and **communicating** functions.

The **morphologic** function of the articles consists in serving as a formal indicator of the noun: the presence of the article signals that what follows is a noun. It can also serve as a signal of substantivisation: the rich.

The articles have two **syntactic** functions:

1. The article separates the noun phrase from other parts of the sentence:

*John has brought a magazine/ **an** interesting magazine/ **an** interesting English magazine.*

2. The article may connect sentences within a text by correlating a noun it modifies with some word or a group of words in the previous context:

*John has brought **a** book. **The** book is interesting.*

Thus, the article in such a case has the **connecting** function.

The articles also have the **communicating** function.

1) A noun with the indefinite article may introduce new information in the sentence: it is then the focus of communication ("the rheme" of the sentence):

***A** pretty girl of about eight ran into the room.*

2) A noun with the definite article in the initial position usually indicates given information and is not the focus of communication ("the theme" of the sentence);

***The** girl ran into the room.*

The indefinite article

1. Nominating function - it serves to name an object or to state what kind of object is meant.

He gave her a cigarette.

2. Aspective function - (with countable nouns) - serves to bring out a special aspect of the notion expressed by the noun.

He had almost a supernatural courage.

The definite article

1. The individualizing function - (with countable nouns) - the definite article serves to single out an object or several objects from all the objects of the same class.

Margot took up the telephone.

2. The generic function - (with countable nouns in the singular) - serves to indicate that the noun becomes a composite image of the class:

The tiger has always had the reputation of being a man-eater.

3. Restricting function - (with uncountable nouns) - the definite article restricts the material denoted by a concrete uncountable noun to a definite quantity, portion or to a definite locality:

He slowly pulled on his gloves, concentrating on each fold in the leather.

The definite article also restricts the abstract notion expressed by an uncountable noun to a particular instance:

The work seemed to consist chiefly of interviewing young women for jobs in department stores.

Absence of the Article (the Zero Article)

1. The nominating function - (both with countable and uncountable nouns) - it is parallel to the use of the indefinite article with singular countable nouns.

The place smelled of dust.

10. USE OF ARTICLES

The indefinite article is used:

1) Before a singular noun which is countable (i.e. of which there is more than one) when it is mentioned for the first time and represents no particular person or thing:

I need a visa.

They live in a flat.

He bought an ice-cream.

2) Before a singular countable noun which is used as an example of a class of things:

*A car must be insured = All cars/Any car must be insured.
A child needs love = All children need/Any child needs love.*

3) With a noun complement (*a complement is a word which is necessary to complete the meaning of a verb*). This includes names of professions:

*It was **an** earthquake.*

*She'll be **a** dancer.*

*He is **an** actor.*

4) In certain expressions of quantity:

a lot of a couple a great deal of

a great many a dozen (but one dozen is also possible)

5) With certain numbers:

a hundred a thousand

Before **half** when **half** follows a whole number:

1 1/2 kilos = one and a half kilos or a kilo and a half

But *1/2 kg = half a kilo (no a before half)*, though *a + half + noun* is sometimes possible: *a half-holiday a half-portion a half-share*

With $1/3$, $1/4$, $1/5$ etc. **a** is usual: *a third, a quarter etc.*, but **one** is also possible.

6) In expressions of price, speed, ratio etc.:

5p a kilo £1 a metre sixty kilometres an hour

10p a dozen four times a day

*(Here **a/an** = per.)*

7) In exclamations before singular, countable nouns:

Such a long queue! But Such long queues!

What a pretty girl! What pretty girls!

8) **a** can be placed before Mr/Mrs/Miss + surname:

a Mr Smith a Mrs Smith a Miss Smith

A Mr Smith means 'a man called Smith' and implies that he is a stranger to the speaker. *Mr Smith*, without **a**, implies that the speaker knows Mr Smith or knows of his existence.

Omission of a/an:

1) Before plural nouns.

a/an has no plural form. So the plural of *a dog* is *dogs*, and of *an egg* is *eggs*.

2) Before names of meals, except when these are preceded by an adjective:

We have breakfast at eight
He gave us a good breakfast.

The article is also used when it is a special meal given to celebrate something or in someone's honour:

I was invited to dinner (at their house, in the ordinary way)
but *I was invited to a dinner given to welcome the new ambassador.*

The definite article is used:

1) Before a noun which has become definite as a result of being mentioned a second time:

*His car struck a tree; you can still see **the** mark on **the** tree.*

2) Before a noun which by reason of locality can represent only one particular thing:

*Ann is in **the** garden, (the garden of this house)*

*Please pass **the** wine. (the wine on the table)*

3) **the** + **singular noun** can represent a class of animals or things:

***The** whale is in danger of becoming extinct.*

***The** deep-freeze has made life easier for housewives.*

But *man*, used to represent the human race, has no article:

*If oil supplies run out, **man** may have to fall back on the horse.*

4) **the** can be used before a member of a certain group of people:

***The** small shopkeeper is finding life increasingly difficult.*

the + **singular noun** as used above takes a singular verb. The pronoun is he, she or it:

***The** first-class traveler pays more so **he** expects some comfort.*

5) When the object or group of objects is unique or considered to be unique:

***the** earth **the** sea **the** sky **the** equator **the** stars*

6) Before a noun made definite by the addition of a phrase or clause:

***the** girl in blue **the** man with the banner*

***the** boy that I met **the** place where I met him*

Similarly: **the** postman (the one who comes to us), **the** car (our car), **the** newspaper (the one we read).

7) Before superlatives and first, second etc. used as adjectives or pronouns, and only, next and same:

***the** first (week) **the** best day **the** only way*

*Woodside Road is **the** next turning on your right.*

8) **the** + **adjective** represents a class of persons:

***the** old = old people in general*

Omission of *the*

The definite article is not used:

1) Before names of places, or before names of people (see Use of Articles with Proper Nouns).

2) Before abstract nouns except when they are used in a particular sense:

Men fear death.

but *The death of the Prime Minister left his party without a leader.*

3) After a noun in the possessive case, or a possessive adjective:

the boy's uncle = the uncle of the boy.

It is my (blue) book = The (blue) book is mine.

4) Before names of meals:

The Scots have porridge for breakfast.

but *The wedding breakfast was held in her father's house.*

5) Before names of games: *He plays golf.*

6) Before parts of the body and articles of clothing, as these normally prefer a possessive pronoun:

Raise your right hand. He took off his coat.

But notice that sentences of the type:

She seized the child's collar.

I patted his shoulder.

The brick hit John's face.

could be expressed:

She seized the child by the collar.

I patted him on the shoulder.

The brick bit John in the face.

Similarly in the passive:

He was hit on the head. He was cut in the hand.

Note that in some European languages the definite article is used before indefinite plural nouns but that in English *the* is never used in this way:

Women are expected to like babies. (i.e. women in general)

Big hotels all over the world are very much the same.

If we put *the* before women in the first example, it would mean that we were referring to a particular group of women.

7) *Nature*, where it means the spirit creating and motivating the world of plants and animals etc., is used without the:

If you interfere with nature you will suffer for it.

Omission of *the* before home, church, hospital, prison, school etc. and before work, sea and town

home

When *home* is used alone, i.e. is not preceded or followed by a descriptive word or phrase, *the* is omitted:

He is at home.

home used alone can be placed directly after a verb of motion or *verb of motion* + *object*, i.e. it can be treated as an adverb:

He went home.

I arrived home after dark.

I sent him home.

But when *home* is preceded or followed by a descriptive word or phrase it is treated like any other noun:

They went to their new home.

We arrived at the bride's home.

For some years this was the home of your queen.

A mud hut was the only home he had ever known.

bed, church, court, hospital, prison, school/college/university

the is not used before the nouns listed above when these places are visited or used for their primary purpose.

We go: *to bed to sleep or as invalids*

to hospital as patients

to church to pray

to prison as prisoners

to court as litigants etc.

to school/college/university to study

Similarly we can be:

in bed, sleeping or resting

in hospital as patients

at church as worshippers

at school etc. as students

in court as witnesses etc.

We can *be/get back (or be/get home) from school/college/university.*

We can *leave school, leave hospital*

be released from prison.

When these places are visited or used for other reasons *the* is necessary:

I went to the church to see the stained glass.

He goes to the prison sometimes to give lectures.

sea

We go *to sea as sailors.*

To be at sea = to be on a voyage (as passengers or crew).

But *to go to* or *be at the sea* = to go to or be at the seaside.

We can also *live by/near the sea.*

work and office work (= place of work) is used without *the*:

He's on his way to work.

He is at work.

He isn't back from work yet.

Note that *at work* can also mean 'working': *hard at work* = *working hard*:
He's hard at work on a new picture.

office (= place of work) needs *the*:

He is at/in the office.

To be *in office* (without *the*) means to hold an official (usually political) position. *To be out of office* = to be no longer in power.

town

the can be omitted when speaking of the subject's or speaker's own town:

We go to town sometimes to buy clothes.

We were in town last Monday.

Use of articles with Names of Parts of the Day

To this group of nouns belong:

<i>day</i>	<i>afternoon</i>	<i>sunset</i>
<i>night</i>	<i>midnight</i>	<i>daytime</i>
<i>morning</i>	<i>dawn</i>	<i>nightfall</i>
<i>evening</i>	<i>dusk</i>	<i>etc.</i>
<i>noon</i>	<i>sunrise</i>	

1) If a speaker means a particular day, night, etc (smt. with a descriptive attribute) the definite article is used:

The night was warm and beautifully still.

I could see the stars in the clear night.

But: it is also possible to say:

It was a wet day.

On a hot September evening he strolled idly to the embankment.

Note: *early morning; broad day; light noon; late night* – are always used without any articles.

2) If nouns, denoting parts of the day, are used as predicates, they have no article:

It was dusk, but I could see Henry walking across the field.

3) No articles is used when the nouns *morning, day, dawn, evening, night, dusk*, are used as subjects to the verbs *to break, to be at hand, to fall, to gather, to set in, to come*.

4) However, there exist some traditional ways of using nouns, denoting parts of the day. Such expressions are treated as set phrases.

a) The definite article is used in: *in the morning, in the evening, in the daytime, in the afternoon, in the night.*

b) No article is used after the prepositions *at, by, about, past, before, after, towards, till, until*, e.g. *at night, at dawn, by day (днем), by night (ночью), by noon (к полудню), by midnight (к полуночи), past noon, about midnight, before dawn, after sunset, etc.*

There is no article in the following phrases: *all day (long) and all night (through)* (but we say: *all through the night and all through the day*), *day after day, night after night, day in day out, from morning till night, (to work) day and night, in the dead of night, late at night* (but we say: *early in the morning*).

Use of articles with proper nouns

The article is not used with:

1) common nouns used as terms of addresses and therefore capitalised:

Thank you, Mother.

The patient is ready, Doctor.

The indefinite article is used:

1) when using a proper noun to indicate the characteristic of the person named:

He is a Hercules. (very strong)

She is a Florence Nightingale. (a kind nurse)

2) to mean "a certain person whose name is":

A Mr. Johnson is looking for you.

The definite article is used:

1) for a family name in plural:

The Smiths come this evening. (the Smiths = Mr. and Mrs. Smith and children)

2) to distinguish two people who have the same name:

The George Brown who teaches here is not the George Brown you knew in the College.

3) The article is used in front of nationality nouns to denote "all the people in general"

the Chinese, the Swiss, the Arabs, the Danes/the Danish, the Spaniards/the Spanish, the Swedes/the Swedish, the Dutch, etc.

4) when the article is accepted as part of a geographical name:

counties: *the Netherlands the United States of America
the Philippines (or the Philippine Islands)*

	<i>the Argentine (but Argentina)</i>	
seas and oceans	<i>the Black Sea</i>	<i>the Pacific (Ocean)</i>
	<i>the Red Sea</i>	<i>the Atlantic (Ocean)</i>
	<i>the Indian Ocean</i>	<i>the Baltic (Sea)</i>
	<i>the North Sea</i>	<i>the Mediterranean (Sea)</i>

Do not use *the* with the names of individual lakes, but *the Great Lakes* means collectively *Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario.*

rivers	<i>the Amazon</i>	<i>the Mississippi</i>
	<i>the Ganges</i>	<i>the Nile</i>
mountain ranges	<i>the Alps</i>	<i>the Andes</i>
	<i>the Rocky Mountains or the Rockies</i>	
	<i>the Himalaya Mountains or the Himalayas</i>	

The is not used with the names of individual peaks, except *the Peak, the Matterhorn.*

deserts	<i>the Sahara</i>	<i>the Gobi</i>
regions	<i>the Rivera</i>	<i>the Crimea</i>
certain other	<i>the City</i>	<i>the Sudan</i>
names	<i>the Mall</i>	<i>the Strand</i>
	<i>The Hague</i>	<i>the Yemen</i>

5) *the* is used with the names of the ships:

the Queen Elisabeth the Mayflower

6) with the names of newspapers:

The Times The Daily News

but *Time (magazine)*

7) with the names of hotels

The Hilton The Grand (Hotel)

8) *the* is also used before names consisting of **noun + of + noun** and **adjective + noun**:

the Bay of Biscay the Gulf of Mexico
the Cape of Good Hope the National Gallery

9) *the* is used before names consisting of **adjective + noun** (provided the adjective is not east, west etc.):

the Arabian Sea the New Forest the High Street

10) *the* is used before the adjectives **east/west etc. + noun** in certain names:

the East/West End the East/West Indies the North/South Pole

but is normally omitted:

South Africa North America West Germany

the, however, is used before **east/west etc.** when these are nouns:

the north of Spain the West (geographical)
the Middle East the West (political)

Compare *Go north* (adverb: in a northerly direction)
with *He lives in the north* (noun: an area in the north).

11) It is also used before names of *choirs, orchestras, pop groups* etc.:
the Bach Choir the Philadelphia Orchestra the Beatles

12) *the* is used before titles containing *of (the Duke of York)* but it is not used before other titles or ranks (*Lord Olivier, Captain Cook*), though if someone is referred to by title/rank alone *the* is used:

The earl expected... The captain ordered...

13) Letters written to two or more unmarried sisters jointly may be addressed ***The Misses+surname***:

The Misses Smith.

Use of articles with Names of Diseases

This group includes a considerable numbers of uncountable nouns:
pneumonia, influenza, scarlet fever, cholera, diabetes, lumbago, cancer, diphtheria, mumps and measles (the latter two are both used with a singular verb), *etc.*

1) Names of diseases are generally found without any article:

The boy arrived home with measles.

He had almost died of cholera.

He fell with 'flu.

2) The definite art may be used with names of diseases in a clear case of back reference or if there is a limiting attribute.

After the diphtheria Jane felt very weak and depressed.

but: *to have a (bad, splitting) headache*

to have a toothache

to have a sore throat

to have a boil

to have a bruise

to have a duodenal (gastric) ulcer

to have a heart trouble.

A/An, The and zero in front of abbreviations:

1) Abbreviations are made with the first letters of the most important words. They are treated like ordinary nouns and used them with *a/an, the* or *zero*:

I've just bought an LP. (= a Long Playing record).

an + vowel sound (an LP) and a + consonant sound (a VW= a Volkswagen).

2) *a/an* and full stops are used with titles:

She's an M.A. (= Master of Arts)

3) *the* is used in front of institutions when we can't say them as single words. Full stops are not used:

*I listen to the news on **the** BBC.* (= the British Broadcasting Corporation)

We are members of UNESCO. /ju:'neskou/ (= the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation)

4) no article (zero) is used with chemical symbols:

CO stands for Carbon Dioxide.

5) The first letters of some words are often used as normal words:

*Planes use **radar**.* (= Radio Detection And Ranging)

Idioms

In a lot of idiomatic expressions articles are used or left out for no apparent reason other than that they belong or don't belong in the expression. Learners need to learn these like items of vocabulary, and have to remember the whole phrase, ignoring general rules or sub-rules.

a bit of
have a drink

in a hurry
do a turn

make a start

on the coast
through the nose
on the ground that
in the centre of
in the middle of
to the forest
to (at) the theatre
on the spot
to play the piano

in the pink
go to the wall
for the reason that
on the invitation of
on the initiative of
in (to, across) the fields
to the pictures
in the slums
to play the violin

off the record
play the blues
under the influence of
by the side of
under the pretence of
to (at) the cinema
to (in) the country
in the trenches

in [] debt
by [] train
by [] coach
by [] taxi
by [] sea
by [] phone
by [] mistake
by [] letter
at [] hand
in [] person
on [] foot
to [] sea

on [] loan
by [] plane
by [] bus
by [] air
by [] post
by [] radio
by [] hand
by [] land
off [] hand
on [] board
on [] tiptoe
on [] hand

out of [] action
by [] boat
by [] tram
by [] car
by [] mail
by [] accident
by [] chance
by [] sight
in [] detail
on [] deck
at [] sea
on [] leave

<i>on [] business</i>	<i>on [] holiday</i>	<i>in [] addition to</i>
<i>in [] charge of</i>	<i>in [] connection with</i>	<i>in [] contrast with</i>
<i>in [] regard to</i>	<i>in [] support of</i>	<i>in [] reply to</i>
<i>on [] account of</i>	<i>in [] comparison with</i>	<i>in [] conformity with</i>
<i>in [] honour of</i>	<i>in [] memory of</i>	<i>in [] pursuit of</i>
<i>in [] favour of</i>	<i>in [] combination with</i>	<i>in [] answer to</i>
<i>on [] top of</i>	<i>in [] defiance of</i>	<i>with [] regard to</i>
<i>in [] recognition of</i>	<i>in [] return for</i>	<i>in [] place of</i>
<i>in [] relation to</i>	<i>in [] search of</i>	<i>by [] reason of</i>
<i>by [] way of</i>	<i>to play [] volley-ball</i>	<i>to play [] hockey</i>
<i>to play [] golf</i>	<i>to play [] cards</i>	<i>for [] fear that</i>
<i>on [] condition that</i>		

Note: Notice the following set phrases: *at present* (в настоящее время), *in the past* (в прошлом), *in the future* (в будущем), *in future* (отныне, впредь).

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