

## Lecture Four: Articles, Nouns, and Plural Forms

**Objective:** By the end of this lecture, students will be able to

- \*use definite and indefinite articles correctly.
- \*distinguish between singular and plural nouns.

### Examples

- I took **a** *trip* to **a** city last *summer*.
- She booked **an** early *flight*.
- We booked three *hotels* for our *trips*.
- **The** *journey* was long but enjoyable.

**1- Articles:** In English, we use *a/an* when we say what kind of thing or person we mean.

- We use **the** when we are thinking of a specific thing (Eg: Tim sat down on a chair. (maybe one of many chairs in the room) Tim sat down on **the** chair nearest the door. (a specific chair)
- We use **the** when it is clear which thing or person we mean (Eg: I took a taxi to **the** station. (= the station in that town)).
- We use **the** when there is only one of something (Eg: Have you ever crossed **the** equator? (there is only one equator)
- We use **the** + superlative (best, oldest etc.) (Eg: What's **the** longest river in Europe?)
- We say '**the** same', '**the** world', '**the** sky', '**the** universe', '**the** sea', '**the** sun', '**the** ground', '**the** moon', '**the** earth', '**the** country', '**the** cinema', '**the** theatre', '**the** radio', and '**the** internet'.

*Exceptions:* We use Earth (without the) when we think of it as a planet in space (like Mars, Jupiter etc.).

- We say space (without the) when we mean 'space in the universe'.
- We do not use **the** with names of people and most names of places.
- When we use Mr/Ms/Captain/Doctor etc. + a name, we do not use **the**.
- We use Mount (= mountain) and Lake before a name in the same way (without **the**).

### **2- Nouns and Plural Forms**

- \*A noun can be *countable* (like *banana, apple...*) or *uncountable* (like *rice, music, sand...*)
  - \*A countable noun can be singular (banana) or plural (bananas).
  - \*An uncountable noun has only one form (rice). There is **no** plural.
- You can use a/an with singular countable nouns: (a beach) and We *do not* use a/an with uncountable nouns.
- \*In regular plural form, we add 's' or 'es' to nouns (eg: tables, chairs, tomatoes,...), Irregular plural forms (eg: mouse /mice/, foot /feet/, child /children/, man /men/.....
  - \*Some nouns are singular and plural at the same time, so we need context to be understood (eg: statistics, ethics.....).

**Exercise 1:** Put in a/an or the.

1-This morning I bought **a** book and..... magazine..... book is in my bag, but I can't remember where I put .....magazine.

2- I saw .....accident this morning..... car crashed into .....tree..... driver of .....car wasn't hurt, but .....car was badly damaged.

3-There are two cars parked outside: .....blue one and .....grey one..... blue one belongs to my neighbours. I don't know who .....owner of..... grey one is.

4-My friends live in .....old house in .....small village. There is .....beautiful garden behind .....house. I would like to have .....garden like that.

**Exercise 2:** Which is right?

-1Have you ever been to Science Museum / the Science Museum? (the Science Museum is correct)

-2 Many tourists in London visit St Paul's Cathedral / the St Paul's Cathedral.

-3The biggest park in New York is Central Park / The Central Park.

-4 I'd like to go to China and see Great Wall / the Great Wall.

-5 Dublin Airport / The Dublin Airport is situated about 12 kilometres from the city centre.

-6 We went to Italy and saw Leaning Tower / the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

**Exercise 3:** Put the nouns between brackets into their correct plural form.

- Two tiny (**mouse**) ..... nibbled on the crumbs in the kitchen.
- Our team scored four exciting (**goal**) .....in the game.
- She wore fuzzy socks to keep her (**foot**)..... warm.
- The firefighter rescued three scared (**child**) .....from the fire.
- A flock of noisy (**goose**) .....flew overhead.
- Stormy weather stranded many (**passenger**) .....at the airport.

**References**

Murphy, R. (2019). English Grammar in Use (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Cambridge University Press.

<https://easyenglishpath.com/irregular-plural-nouns/>.