

**High Intermediate 3**  
**Unit 2: Grammar**  
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## Articles

There are three types of articles in English:

- Definite Article => **the**
- Indefinite Article => **a/an**
- Zero Article => **Ø** (Lack of Article)

**the + Singular Countable Noun**  
**a/an + Singular Countable Noun**

**Point:**

It is not possible to use the zero article before a singular countable noun.

**Don't Say:** *Book is on table.*

**Say:** *The book is on the table.*

**the + Uncountable Noun => definite meaning**  
**Ø + Uncountable Noun => general meaning**

Examples:

*The water in the glass is from the springs of Mount Everest.* => Some water we know

*Water is essential for life.* => Water in general

**the + Plural Countable Noun => definite meaning**  
**Ø + Plural Countable Noun => general meaning**

Examples:

*The students of Jefferson High School are dissatisfied with the quality of their education.* => The students we know

*Students are dissatisfied with the quality of education.* => Students in general

## Generic Nouns

Generic Noun = a noun with a general meaning

**Point:**

The article “the” can **SOMETIMES** precede a singular or plural countable noun and give a general meaning to it.

Examples:

*The tiger is a wild animal.* => "The tiger" can be a generic noun depending on the context.

*The tigers* are wild animals. => "The tigers" can be a generic noun depending on the context.

**Point:**

The zero article preceding a plural countable noun **ALWAYS** gives the noun a general meaning. In other words, lack of article before a plural countable noun indicates the generic nature of the noun.

Example:

*Tigers* are wild animals. => Under any conditions, "Tigers" is a generic noun.

## The + Proper Noun

**Point:**

Normally, we don't use "the" before a proper noun.

**Don't Say:** *The David is from the London.*

**Say:** *David is from London.*

### Exceptions:

#### the + Names of Rivers, Seas, Oceans, Mountains, and Canals

Examples:

*the Nile (River), the Amazon (River), the Mississippi (River)  
the Caspian Sea, the Red Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Persian Gulf  
the Atlantic (Ocean), the Pacific (Ocean), the Indian Ocean  
the Himalayas, the Alps, the Rockies, the Andes, the Alborz Mountains  
the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal*

**Point:**

Before names of mounts, "the" shouldn't be used: *Mount Everest, Mount Damavand*

#### the + Plural Countries

Examples:

*the Netherlands, the Bahamas, the Philippines*

#### the + Names of Some Cities

There are a few city names that are commonly preceded by the definite article "the." Here are some examples:

**The Hague:** The seat of government in the Netherlands.

**The Bronx:** A borough of New York City, USA.

**The Vatican:** Refers to Vatican City, an independent city-state enclaved within Rome, Italy.

**The Valley:** Short for the San Fernando Valley, part of Los Angeles, California, USA.

**The Woodlands:** A master-planned community and census-designated place in Texas, USA.

These city names often have unique historical or geographical reasons for including the article "the" before them. Words for other cities cannot be preceded by the definite article "the".

### **the + Unique Monuments**

*the Eiffel Tower, the Great Wall of China, the Persepolis, the Acropolis, the Milad Tower, the Taj Mahal*

### **the + Names of Ships**

*the Titanic, the Sunchi, the Mary Celeste*

### **the + Regions of World**

*the Middle East, the Far East*

### **the + Proper Noun Modified by an Adjective Phrase or Clause**

The Tehran of fifty years ago was a better city to live in.

The London which you see today is different from the London which you visited forty years ago.

### **Point:**

Before the names of languages, we don't normally use an article.

Examples:

*I am studying German.*

*English is so important in international business.*

*Most of people in Iran speak Persian.*

### **Point:**

If the word "language" follows the name of a particular language, the article "the" is required before the name of the language.

Examples:

*I am studying the German language.*

*The English language is so important in international business.*

*Most of people in Iran speak the Persian language.*