

articles: *a / an, the, no article**a / an*

- 1 It's **a nice house**.
She's **a lawyer**. ▶ 3.19
- 2 I saw **an old man** with **a dog**.
- 3 What **an awful day!**
- 4 I have classes three times **a week**.

- We use *a / an* with singular countable nouns:
 - 1 when we say what something is or what somebody does.
 - 2 the first time we mention a thing / person.
 - 3 in exclamations with *What...!*
 - 4 in expressions of frequency.

the

- 1 I saw an old man with a dog. **The dog** was barking. ▶ 3.20
- 2 **The bell** rang and my father opened **the door**.
The children are at school.
- 3 **The moon** goes round **the Earth**.
- 4 I'm going to **the cinema** tonight.
- 5 It's **the best** restaurant in town.

- We use *the*:
 - 1 when we talk about something we've already mentioned.
 - 2 when it's clear what we're referring to.
 - 3 when there's only one of something.
 - 4 with places in a town, e.g. *cinema, theatre*.
 - 5 with superlatives.

no article



- 1 **Girls** often learn to read earlier than **boys**.
Love is more important than **money**. ▶ 3.21
- 2 She's not **at home** today.
I get back **from work** at 5.30.
- 3 I never have **breakfast**.
I'm going to the theatre **on Tuesday**.
- 4 See you **next week**.

- We don't use an article:
 - 1 when we are speaking in general (with plural and uncountable nouns), e.g. *I love flowers*. Compare: *I love the flowers in my garden*. (= the specific flowers in that place)
 - 2 with some nouns, e.g. *home, work, school, church, after at / to / from*.
 - 3 before meals, days, and months.
 - 4 before *next / last + day, week, etc.*

a Circle the correct form.

- I love weddings / the weddings!
- 1 Jess is *nurse* / *a nurse* in a hospital. A *hospital* / *The hospital* is a long way from her house.
 - 2 What a *horrible day* / *horrible day!* We'll have to eat our picnic in *the car* / *a car*.
 - 3 My wife likes *love stories* / *the love stories*, but I prefer *the war films* / *war films*.
 - 4 We go to *theatre* / *the theatre* about once *a month* / *once the month*.
 - 5 I'm having *dinner* / *the dinner* with some friends *the next Friday* / *next Friday*.
 - 6 My boyfriend is *chef* / *a chef*. I think he's *the best cook* / *best cook* in the world.
 - 7 I'm not sure if I closed *the windows* / *windows* before I left *the home* / *home* this morning.
 - 8 In general, I like *dogs* / *the dogs*, but I don't like *dogs* / *the dogs* that live next door to me.
 - 9 I got to *the school* / *school* late every day *the last week* / *last week*.
 - 10 I think *happiness* / *the happiness* is more important than *money* / *the money*.

b Complete with *a / an, the, or – (no article)*.

- A What does *the* guidebook say about Pizzeria Marco?
B It says that it's a great restaurant.
- 1 A How often do you go to _____ gym?
B About three times _____ week. But I never go on _____ Fridays.
 - 2 A What time does _____ train leave?
B In 40 minutes. Can you drop me off at _____ station on your way to _____ work?
 - 3 A What _____ amazing dress!
B Thanks. I bought it in _____ sales _____ last month.
 - 4 A What's _____ most interesting place to visit in your town?
B Probably _____ castle. It's _____ oldest building.
 - 5 A What shall we do _____ next weekend?
B Let's invite Toni for _____ lunch. We could eat in _____ garden.
 - 6 A Do you like _____ cats?
B Not really. I prefer _____ dogs. I think they're _____ best pets.
 - 7 A Is your mum _____ housewife?
B No, she's _____ teacher. She's always tired when she finishes _____ work.
 - 8 A Have you ever had _____ problem in your relationship?
B Yes, but we solved _____ problem and we got married.
 - 9 A When is _____ meeting?
B They've changed _____ date. It's on _____ Tuesday now.