

CORSO DI LAUREA IN GIURISPRUDENZA

Inglese Giuridico 2019-20

Lesson 2 – 24 March 2020

- Use of Articles

Use of Articles

Definite (the)

- Put the orange(s) on the table, please. (singular or plural, countable)
- Put the beer on the table, please. (uncountable)

Indefinite (a/an)

- Do you want an orange? (singular, countable)
- Do you want a (glass of) beer? (uncountable with ellipsis)

Zero

- Do you like oranges? (plural, countable)
- Do you like beer? (uncountable)

Use of Articles

Specific and Generic meaning

	Countable	Uncountable
Specific	The trees in the photographs were oaks. The oak tree was older than the elm.	The beer is on the table.
Generic	An oak tree fell in the storm. The road was lined by () oak trees. The oak tree is common in England.	In England, () beer is more popular than wine.

Definite Article

Expressing a specific meaning:

- The President gave a speech at the opening of Parliament. (Unique)
- I have two bicycles. I prefer the red one. (Referring back)
- The winner of the lottery made a donation to charity. (Pointing forward/post-modifier)
- They will be given the necessary time (Pre-modifier)
- I read about the accident in the paper. (Conventional)
- They live in the United States (Countries and federations)
- London stands on the River Thames (Rivers, mountain ranges, etc.)

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Note these examples of specific use without the definite article:

- Europe is facing a period of transition.
- Fifth Avenue is the main shopping street in New York.

However, when different instances of the proper noun are used:

- The Europe of the last century was very different from today's Europe.
- The Fifth Avenue I remember was not so prosperous.

Definite Article

Expressing a generic meaning:

- Generic reference to a class
 - The rabbit caused severe problems in Australia. (Rabbits caused severe problems in Australia)
 - Traditionally, English food (generic, uncountable) does not have a good reputation, but actually the food of the last few years has often been exceptional. (modified uncountable)

Adjectives used as nouns

- Today, it is often difficult to help the unemployed.
- The situation changed from the sublime to the ridiculous.
- The English now travel more than they did.

Group nouns

- The general public supported the government.
- It is hard to keep up with the Joneses

Indefinite Article

Indefinite meaning of singular countable nouns:

- A room with a view

First mention of a specific person or thing:

- They all lived together in a single room.
- A certain Ms Smith asked for an appointment

Zero Article

Indefinite meaning of plural countable nouns, uncountable and plural-only nouns:

- Buses and trucks cannot park here.
- Food and wine will be available for all the visitors.
- Police are investigating the complaints.

Specific or generic meaning with plural countable nouns:

- People who live in glass-houses should not throw stones.

Specific or generic meaning with concrete uncountable nouns:

- Life is beautiful.
- You can pay cash or credit card.

Specific or generic meaning with abstract uncountable nouns:

- Further information will be available later.
- Additional support will be welcomed.

Use of Article Exercise

In each space put *a/an* or *the*, or leave the space *blank*.

It has been announced that for (1) the third consecutive month there has been (2).....rise in (3).....number of (4).....people unemployed, rather than (5).....fall that had been predicted. (6).....rise was blamed on (7).....continuing uncertainty over (8).....government economic policy, and couldn't come at (9).....worse time for (10).....Prime Minister, who is facing (11).....growing criticism over (12).....way (13).....present crisis is being handled. (14).....MPs are increasingly voicing (15).....fears that despite (16).....recent devaluation of (17).....pound and cuts in (18).....interest rates, (19).....government still expects (20).....recovery of the economy to take three or even four years. To make (21).....matters worse, (22).....number of small businesses going into (23).....liquidation is still at (24).....record level, and (25).....housing market is showing no signs of recovery. Some backbenchers expect (26).....general election before (27).....end of (28).....winter unless there is (29).....rapid change of (30).....fortune.