

articles

basic rules: *a / an / the*, no article

- 1 My neighbour has just bought **a** dog. **The** dog is **an** Alsatian. (5 37)))
He got into **the** car and drove to **the** Town Hall.
- 2 **Men** are better at parking than **women**.
I don't like **sport** or **classical music**.
I stayed **at home** **last** weekend.

- 1 Use *a* or *an* when you mention somebody or something for the first time or say who or what somebody or something is. Use *the* when it's clear who or what somebody or something is (e.g. it has been mentioned before or it's unique).
- 2 Don't use an article to speak in general with plural and uncountable nouns, or in phrases like *at home / work, go home / to bed, next / last (week)*, etc.

institutions

- My father's **in hospital**. (5 38)))
They're building **a new hospital** in my town.
He was sent **to prison** for two years.
My grandmother used to work in **the prison** as a cleaner.

With words like *prison, church, school, hospital*, and *university*, don't use an article when you are thinking about the institution and the normal purpose it is used for. If you are just thinking about the building, use *a* or *the*.

more rules: geographical names

- 1 **Tunisia** is in **North Africa**. (5 39)))
- 2 **Selfridges**, one of London's biggest department stores, is in **Oxford Street**.
- 3 **Lake Victoria** and **Mount Kilimanjaro** are both in Africa.
- 4 **The River Danube** flows into **the Black Sea**.
- 5 **The National Gallery** and **the British Museum** are London tourist attractions.

We **don't normally use** *the* with:

- 1 most countries, continents, regions ending with the name of a country / continent, e.g. *North America, South East Asia*, islands, states, provinces, towns, and cities (exceptions: *The USA, the UK / United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic*).
- 2 roads, streets, parks, bridges, shops, and restaurants (exceptions: motorways and numbered roads, *the M6, the A25*).
- 3 individual mountains and lakes.

We **normally use** *the* with:

- 4 mountain ranges, rivers, seas, canals, deserts, and island groups.
- 5 the names of theatres, cinemas, hotels, galleries, and museums.

a Circle the correct article.

- James bought a / *the* / (-) new suit at the weekend.
- 1 The weather was awful, so we stayed at *a* / *the* / (-) home.
 - 2 *A* / *The* / (-) dishwasher we bought last week has stopped working already.
 - 3 I love reading *a* / *the* / (-) historical novels.
 - 4 Sarah had had an exhausting day, so she went to *a* / *the* / (-) bed early.
 - 5 I saw a man walking with a woman in the park. *A* / *The* / (-) woman was crying.
 - 6 The teachers are on strike, so the children aren't going to *a* / *the* / (-) school.
 - 7 Turn left immediately after *a* / *the* / (-) church and go up the hill.
 - 8 My neighbour's in *a* / *the* / (-) prison because he didn't pay his taxes.
 - 9 People are complaining because the council have refused to build *a* / *the* / (-) new hospital.
 - 10 Visitors will not be allowed to enter *a* / *the* / (-) hospital after 7 p.m.

b Complete with *the* or (-).

- They're going to the USA to visit family.
- 1 _____ Sicily is the largest island in _____ Mediterranean.
 - 2 Cairo is on _____ River Nile.
 - 3 We didn't have time to visit _____ Louvre when we were in Paris.
 - 4 _____ south west England is famous for its beautiful countryside and beaches.
 - 5 _____ Mount Everest is in _____ Himalayas.
 - 6 The largest inland lake is _____ Caspian Sea.
 - 7 We stayed at _____ Palace Hotel while we were in Madrid.
 - 8 *Romeo and Juliet* is on at _____ Globe Theatre.
 - 9 Mont Blanc is the highest mountain in _____ Alps.
 - 10 I've always wanted to visit _____ India.

