

SPARK

Virginia Evans - Jenny Dooley

4



Grammar

Spark 4 Grammar Book

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The Indefinite Article 'a/an'

We use a/an:

- with **singular countable nouns** when we talk about them in general.
I want to buy a netbook. (any netbook)
- with the verb **to be** and **have (got)**.
Alan has (got) a car. It's a brand new Mercedes.
- before **Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms** when we refer to an unknown person. *A Mrs Hykes is at the reception desk, waiting to see you.* (a person that we don't know)
- to show:
 - a) **price in relation to weight.** (*three euros a kilo*)
 - b) **distance in relation to speed.** (*120 km an hour*)
 - c) **frequency.** (*three times a month*)

We don't use a/an:

- with **uncountable nouns** or **plural countable nouns**. We use **some** instead of a/an.
We need some grapes, apples, cherries and some ice cream for the fruit salad.
- **before an adjective** if it is not followed by a noun.
This film is exciting. BUT This is an exciting film.

One/Ones

We use:

- **one** in the singular and **ones** in the plural to avoid repeating the noun when it is clear what we mean.
My cat is the one with the white bushy tail. Which trousers do you like most? I like the blue ones.
- **a/an** with **one** when there is an adjective before **one**. *I want to buy a new television. I want a small one. BUT I want to buy a television. I want one with a digital tuner.*
- **one/ones** with **this/these/that/those**. *I don't like these brightly-coloured shirts, but I like those ones.*
- **which one(s)** in questions. *I like the green T-shirt the best. Which one do you prefer?*

A(n)/One

We use:

- **a/an** to refer to an unspecified thing with the meaning **any one**. *He wanted to buy a suit.* (We are not talking about a specific suit.)
- **one** when we are counting, to put emphasis on the number. *He bought one tie.* (He didn't buy two ties.)
- **one** with the words **day, week, month, time, year, winter, morning, night** etc or with a specific day or month to say when something happened, usually in narration. *One spring afternoon, Jade decided to pick some flowers for her mother. One Friday, Helen was driving home when an accident happened.*
- **one day** to refer to the future. *One day, the quality of life will improve in third world countries.*
- **one or one of ...** when we mean **one person/thing out of many**. It usually contrasts with **another/other(s)**. *One desk was tidy, but the others were messy. One of my friends is South African.*
- **a/an** or **one** with no difference in meaning when counting or measuring distance, weight, time etc. *Mary bought a/one kilo of beef at the butcher's. My house is about a/one mile away. Tim spent an/one hour preparing the meal.*

1 Fill in the gaps with a, an, some or one.

- 1 Mike wants to buy a motorbike. Any ideas what to get?
- 2 day I'm going to be really famous.
- 3 Mrs Brown called for you earlier.
- 4 of my brothers is doctor.
- 5 Can I have water, please?
- 6 We had exciting holiday in Paris last year.
- 7 I go to the gym three days week.
- 8 I need apples and flour for the apple pie.
- 9 The price of petrol has gone up. It's almost 2 euros litre.
- 10 I like this dress but I don't like that
- 11 Have you seen my schoolbag anywhere? It's the with the colourful stickers on.
- 12 My dream is to buy new BMW.

2 Fill in a, an, one or ones.

- 1 These fairy cakes are delicious! Would you like to try one?
- 2 Mandy had headache and was looking for quiet place to rest.
- 3 It was very late. of the corner shops was open, but everything else was shut.
- 4 Fiona spent hour typing the letter.
- 5 Which of these dishes is yours?
- 6 Monday morning, I was driving to work when it started to snow.
- 7 Let's buy some fresh apples as the at home are too ripe.
- 8 Paul is assistant microbiologist in laboratory in the city centre.
- 9 This is of my favourite books.
- 10 More than hundred people called about going on the tour.

The Definite Article 'the'

We use **the**:

- with countable and uncountable nouns when we are talking about something **specific**, that is, when the noun is mentioned for a second time or is already known. *She has got a coat and an umbrella. **The** coat is dark red and **the** umbrella is orange.*
- with **singular countable nouns** that refer to a group of **people, animals** or **things**. ***The** polar bear is an endangered species.* (= all the polar bears)
- with nouns that are **unique** (***the** Sun*).
- with names of **newspapers** (***the** Post*), **cinemas/theatres** (***the** Plaza*), **hotels** (***the** Hilton*), **museums/art galleries** (***the** Denver Art Museum*), **ships** (***the** Queen Fish*), **organisations** (***the** UNF*).
- with the names of **rivers** (***the** Amazon River*), **groups of islands** (***the** Gambier Islands*), **mountain ranges** (***the** Andes*), **deserts** (***the** Kalahari*), **oceans** (***the** Arctic Ocean*), **canals** (***the** Grand Canal*), **countries** that include words such as **States, Kingdom, Republic** (***the** US*), names or nouns with **of** (***the** House of Commons*), in **geographical terms** such as ***the** Antarctic, **the** North/East/South/West*.
- with the names of **musical instruments** and **dances** (***the** saxophone, **the** tango*).
- with the names of **families** (***the** Petersons*) and **nationalities** ending in **-sh, -ch** or **-ese** (***the** Chinese*). Other nationalities can be used with or without **the** (***the** Romanians/Romanians*).
- with **titles** (***the** Queen*) **BUT** not with titles including a proper name (*Queen Margaret*).
- with adjectives/adverbs in the **superlative** form (***the** best meal I have ever had*). **BUT** when **most** is followed by a noun, it doesn't take **the**. ***Most** people relax at the weekend.*
- with the words **day, morning, afternoon, evening** and **night**. *They left in **the** morning.* **BUT** *at/last night, at noon, at midnight*
- with **historical periods/events** (***the** Middle Ages*). **BUT** *World War II*
- with the words **only, last** and **first** (used as adjectives). *He was **the** first to volunteer.*
- with the words **beach, cinema, city, coast, country(side), ground, jungle, library, office, sea(side), shop, station, theatre, village, weather, world**. *Let's go to **the** beach.*

We **do not** use **the**:

- with uncountable and countable plural nouns when talking about something in **general**. *Jane uses olive oil in all her dishes. Kangaroos live in Australia.*
- with **proper nouns**. *Trevor works in a laboratory.*
- with the demonstratives **this/that/these/those**. *We had a lovely time that day.*
- with the names of **sports, games, activities, subjects of study, days, months, celebrations, colours, drinks** and **meals**. *We played tennis on Saturday.*
- with **languages**, unless they are followed by the word **language**. *Ann speaks Spanish.* **BUT** ***The Russian language** is difficult to learn.*
- with the names of **countries** and **cities**. (*Italy, Paris*) **BUT** ***the** Netherlands, **the** Vatican* (exceptions)
- with the names of **bridges** (*Seven Mile Bridge*), **parks** (*Regent's Park*), **railway stations** (*Victoria Station*), **mountains** (*Mount Fuji*), **individual islands** (*Crete*), **lakes** (*Lake Malawi*) and **continents** (*Africa*), **streets** (*Smith Street, Orchard Road*) **BUT** ***the** M3, **the** A10, squares (Red Square) **BUT** **the** Oxford Circus, .*
- with **possessive adjectives** or the **possessive case**. *That is Greg's bicycle. It's his.*
- with the names of **restaurants, shops, banks, hotels, etc.** which are named after the people who started them (*Barclays Bank, JFK airport*).
- with the words **bed, hospital, college, court, prison, school, sea, university** when we refer to the purpose for which they exist. *The ambulance took the man to hospital.* **BUT** *We went to **the** hospital to visit him.*
- with the word **work** (= place of work). *I must come to work on Saturday this week.*
- with the words **home, mother, father, mum, dad** when we talk about our own home/parents. *Dad hasn't come home yet.*
- with **by + means of transport** (*bus/ferry/train/car, etc.*). *I usually go to school by bus.*
- with the names of **illnesses**. *He's got chickenpox.* **BUT** *flu/the flu, measles/the measles, mumps/the mumps*

3 Fill in the where necessary.

- In *the* afternoon Joe usually works out at *the* gym.
- Canary Islands are famous for growing bananas.
- dingo is a wild dog which lives in Australia.
- Thomas was last person to leave office.
- Wimbledon is oldest tennis tournament in world.
- Martha was waiting for her brother on platform at Piccadilly station.
- We are going on a two-month cruise around Caribbean on Sea Princess.
- song was so popular that it became part of soundtrack of a film.
- girls have softball practice.
- Mum will pick you up after school.

4 Underline the correct item.

- 1 The/- Chinese language is difficult to learn.
- 2 Nick plays the/- saxophone in a jazz band.
- 3 We are going out for the/- lunch tomorrow.
- 4 I am studying the/- Physics at university.
- 5 Mandy is from the/- UK.

5 Fill in the where necessary.

Did you know?

- 1 The longest hair measures 5.6 m and belongs to Xie Qiuping, who lives in China.
- 2 tallest living dog in world is Giant George. He is a little over one metre tall.
- 3 Jupiter is largest planet in our solar system and has 50 moons around it.
- 4 Vatican City, in Rome, is world's smallest country.
- 5 most intelligent man alive today is Kim Ung-Yong from Korea. He has an IQ of 210.
- 6 Antilia is name of most expensive house in world. It is in Mumbai, India.

6 Fill in the gaps with one of the words from the list, adding *the* where necessary. Use each word twice.

• hospital • school • sea • bed

- 1 a) Mike's mum went to the school yesterday to get his report.
b) Mike goes to on foot.
- 2 a) Jack is ill and needs to stay in for a week.
b) Leave these clothes on, and I'll put them away.
- 3 a) Their beach house has a great view of
b) Jason is a sailor and his work keeps him at for many months during the year.
- 4 a) Nathan was in for over a month after the accident.
b) Mia brought her aunt flowers when she visited her at

7 Fill in the gaps below with *a*, *an* or *the* where necessary.

- 1 A: Why don't we call a doctor?
B: No, I'll be all right in few minutes.
- 2 A: Can you send me email with directions to your new house?
B: Sure. But can you give Joe copy of email? He needs directions too.
- 3 A: Where is Kylie?
B: She's at work.
- 4 A: I'd love to go to Disneyland in US.
B: I hear one in Europe is just as good.
- 5 A: What do you know about Tasmanian Tiger?
B: Well, it lived in Australia and New Zealand, but it is now extinct.
- 6 A: Yuck! This isn't my coffee.
B: Oh, it must be mine. Yours is in red cup.
- 7 A: Where do you want to meet for lunch?
B: There's great bistro, in Danforth Street in city centre. We can get there by train.

8 Fill in the gaps below with *the*, *a(n)* or *-*

Dear Bill,
Greetings from 1) - Venice!
It's great here - there are so many exciting things to do!
Yesterday we started off with 2) boat trip down 3) Grand Canal to 4) San Marco. Then we took 5) ride on the lift up 6) Bell Tower. 7) view from 8) top was breathtaking. Before lunch, we saw 9) extraordinary collection of paintings at 10) Accademia art gallery. Soon after that, we ate some gelato from 11) Venice's 12) oldest ice cream shop. In the evening, we went shopping for some Venetian wine glasses on 13) island of 14) Murano. It was one of 15) best days I've ever had!
I hope we can come to Venice together 16) next summer.
Best wishes,
Jake

