

ARTICLES

Articles are determiners or adjectives that precede nouns and clarify whether the noun is general or specific in a given sentence. Using the incorrect article will immediately sound odd to native English language speakers.

A singular count or countable noun meaning something that can be counted always needs a determiner, which is usually an article. (e.g., I ate a taco. I am sitting on the chair). Plural countable nouns need a determiner, which could be an article or could be a word that indicates amount. (e.g., The passengers filled all the seats. She ate three tacos).

An article is not used with a noncount or uncountable noun. (e.g., I like to eat rice. I feel sadness today.)

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Of person, place, or thing. **8 V H ´ D D Q µ Z K H Q P D N L Q J D J H Q H U D** **8 V H ´ D µ Z L W K Q R X Q V W K D W E H J L Q Z L W K F**
specific person, place, or thing. **8 V H ´ D µ Z L W K Q R X Q V W K D W E H J L Q Z L W K F**
begin with vowels. Below are a few examples:

- f* I want to buy a house in Nevada.
- f* The company is searching for a Public Relations specialist.
- f* I hope to present my sculptures in an art gallery someday.

Note that the writer does not have in mind a specific house to buy, a specific person to fill that position, or a specific art gallery to display their sculptures. Any house in the state, any person with qualifications, and any art gallery might be suitable.

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8 V H ´ W K H µ Z K H Q U H I H U U L Q J W R D V S H F L I L F R U S D U W L F X O D U
about, including if you have already referred to something previously. Below are a few examples:

- f* The novel was translated into fifteen languages.
- f* The road that we took was windy.
- f* We ate at a Chinese restaurant last night. The restaurant was crowded.

Note that the writer references a specific novel that was translated and a specific road that they took. In the third example, the writer first mentions a restaurant that is a general cultural or culinary type, but then in the second sentence references that one particular restaurant.

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Special uses R I q W K H r

1. 8 V H ´ W K H µ Z K H Q U H I H U U L Q J W R D X Q L T X H R E M H F W W K D W

- f He is staring up at the sky.
- f You can probably find that recipe on the internet.

1 R W H W K D W W K H U H L V R Q O \ R Q H V N \ R Q (D U W K D Q G W K H

2. Use ´ W K H µ Z K H Q \ R X D U H W D O N L Q J D E R X W W K H F R Q F H S W R

- f The dog is a very loyal animal.
- f The computer has changed the world.

Note that here the writer is not talking about one specific dog or computer; instead, they are describing the understanding or perception of dogs and of computers. You write Dogs are very loyal animals. Computers have changed the world.

3. 8 V H ´ W K H µ Z K H Q U H I H U U L Q J W R D X Q L T X H R E M H F W W K D W

- f the names of rivers, oceans, and seas (the Atlantic Ocean)
- f points on the globe (the North Pole)
- f geographical areas (the South)
- f deserts, forests, gulfs, and peninsulas (the Amazon Rainforest, the Persian Gulf)
- f groups of islands and groups of lakes (the Canary Islands, the Great Lakes)
- f countries that are made up of islands or states (the United States of America).
- f many universities (the University of Nevada)

7 K H U H D U H V R P H H [F H S W L R Q V W R X V L Q J ´ W K H µ Z L W K O F
following:

- f cardinal directions (south, northwest)
- f a university acronym or universities based on names (USU, Stanford University)
- f common places that you are traveling to or located in (home, school, work)
e.g., I am at home. I am going to temple. I am in bed.