ARTICLES

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

A singular count or countable not meaning something that can be court be court by 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 **6at h**ce.V I H H O L Q J D C sadness today.)

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8 V H ´D DQ μ ZKHQ PDNLQJ D JHQHUDOof plensbhl, place, 5rhthing, VrobtQaNLQJ E specific person, place, or thing. 8 V H ´D μ ZLWK QRXQV WKDW EHJLQ ZLWK 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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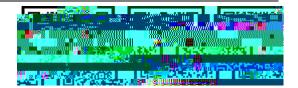
8VH ´WKHµ ZKHQ UHIHUULQJ WR D VSHFLILF RU SDUWLFXODU about, including if you have already referred to something previously. Below are a few examples:

- 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 RI qWKHr

- 1. 8VH 'WKHµ ZKHQ UHIHUULQJ WR D XQLTXH REMHFW WKDW
 - *f* He is staring up at the sky.
 - f You can probably find that recipe on the internet.
 - 1RWH WKDW WKHUH LV RQO\ RQH VN\ RQ (DUWK DQG WKH
- 2. Use 'WKH μ ZKHQ \RX DUH WDONLQJ DERXW WKH FRQFHSW 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. Youvorate allowings are very loyal animals DCoord puters have changed the world.

- 3. 8 V H ´ W KphalmuticuZatr Molc Kations.
 - f the names of rivers, oceans, and seas (the Atlantic Ocean)
 - f points on the globe (the North **IP**)
 - 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 (theniversity of Nevada)
 - 7KHUH DUH VRPH H[FHSWLRQV WR XVLQJ 'WKHµ ZLWK OF following:
 - f cardinal directions (south, northwest)
 - f a university acronym or universities based on names (UStatiford University)
 - f common places that you are traveling to or located in (home, school, work)
 - e.g., I an at home. lam going to templeam in bed.

Handout created for the UNLV Writing Center by Madina Tuhbatullina, February 2023.