

## ARTICLES- To Use or Not To Use, That is the Question!

Nouns play an important role in determining when to use an article and when not to. Nouns are divided into count and non-count. A count noun is one that can be pluralized and a non-count cannot, for example:

Nouns:

<b>Singular</b>	chair	
<b>Plural</b>	chairs	
<b>Non-Count</b>	air	∅ plural

Articles:

<b>Definite</b>	<b>The</b>		
<b>Indefinite</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>An</b>	<b>Some</b>

Rules to remember:

- 1). When using a **singular count noun**, it **MUST** always be modified by something, i.e., articles, possessives, demonstratives.  
Examples:   The job       My job       That job
  
- 2). Generalizations are not preceded by an article, for example,  
  
-**Hurricanes** are a natural phenomenon occurring in the Atlantic in the summer months.
  
- 3). When making a specific reference, plural count nouns are preceded by an article.  
  
-**The hurricanes** that made landfall in Florida in 2004 caused great damage.
  
- 4). When you first refer to something, an indefinite article should be used. However, when you refer to it thereafter, the definite article needs to be used.  
  
-While strolling down the sandy beaches of Miami, Tracy met **a** girl who was vacationing from Osaka, Japan. At first, **the** girl was shy and somewhat unfriendly. Tracy later realized that **the** girl could barely speak English.

5. Abstractions are not modified unless the reference is being made about something specific.

- Education should be the same for everyone.
- The education he received was the best.

**Practice what you have learned. Write the appropriate article in the blank spaces. If no article is needed, write this symbol: Ø**

1. On Thursday, \_\_\_\_\_ airplane did what \_\_\_\_\_ taxi turned boat couldn't. 2. \_\_\_\_\_ airplane brought to the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ couple that tried to enter the U.S.
3. The instructor wrote \_\_\_\_\_ rules on \_\_\_\_\_ board for \_\_\_\_\_ students to copy.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ developer wants to buy \_\_\_\_\_ building downtown, but \_\_\_\_\_ owner doesn't want to sell \_\_\_\_\_ building.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Rules/rules were made at \_\_\_\_\_ meeting conducted to determine how much money would be collected to repair \_\_\_\_\_ swimming pool.
6. We believe that there's \_\_\_\_\_ better way to do this.
7. Ending \_\_\_\_\_ dispute between \_\_\_\_\_ family members was all \_\_\_\_\_ Governor wanted.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Expressway Authority has decided to raise toll taxes.
9. Raising \_\_\_\_\_ level of instruction is what any good school wants.
10. Could you please go to \_\_\_\_\_ front and see if \_\_\_\_\_ door is open?

Myra M. Medina  
Miami Dade College