

ADJECTIVES/ ARTICLES/ PREPOSITIONS/ CONJUNCTIONS

ADJECTIVES

An adjective is a word that describes a noun, giving extra information about it.

For example:

a **sweet** taste

a **red** apple

a **technical** problem

an **Italian** - woman

POSITIONS OF ADJECTIVES

Most adjectives can be used in two positions: **attributive** adjectives occur before the noun they describe while **predicative** adjectives are used after certain verbs:

a **black** cat [attributive]

The cat was **black**. [predicative]

Comparative and superlative adjectives

Most adjectives have three forms: the positive (e.g. sad), the comparative (e.g. sadder and the **superlative** [e.g. saddest]). The formation of comparative and superlative adjectives (and adverbs) is known as **comparison**.

Gradable and non-gradable adjectives

Most adjectives are gradable. This means that you can modify (strengthen, weaken, or otherwise change) their meanings by placing one or more adverbs in front of them (e.g. a very expensive car).

Non-gradable adjectives are those with meanings which cannot be modified by adverbs (e.g., western electric) Qualitative and classifying adjectives

Adjectives can also be divided into two other types:

- **Qualitative** adjectives describe the qualities of someone or something (e.g. tall, long, hot)
- **Classifying** adjectives are used to put people or things into categories or classes (e.g. Weekly, northern external)

ARTICLES

An article belongs to the group of words called determiners. There are two types of article: the definite article and the indefinite article.

Articles in English are complicated, and there are many rules for their use. However, learning a few general article about the use of the articles is helpful; the logic of these rules can be transferred to most uses of the article. In addition to learning the rules, you can gain a good working use of the articles through reading and listening.

TABLE OF ARTICLES

Number	Indefinite	Definite
Singular	a/an	the
Plural	nothing	the
Non-Count	nothing	the

Quick Hints

a before consonants (a book)

an before vowels (an exam)

- **Pronunciation** is what matters.
an hour ('h' is silent and it's pronounced: an our)
 - **Temporary illnesses:** (I have a headache, a cold, a fever, a backache)
 - **"The" with superlative forms** (He is the smartest kid I have seen.)
- Some Rules using Articles

Singular count nouns:

- indefinite: use 'a'
 - definite: use 'the'
- My daughter wants to buy a dog this weekend. (Indefinite-Could be any dog)
The dog in the backyard is very cute. (Definite-The one in the backyard)
He requested a puppy for his birthday.
He wanted the puppy he played with at the pet shop.
She ordered a hamburger without onions.
Did you drink the coke I just ordered?

Plural count nouns:

Use "the" or Nothing, never 'a'.
Come and look at the children, (definite)
Children are always curious, (indefinite)
She loves flowers, (indefinite)
The flowers in her garden are beautiful, (definite)
Do you like reading grammar rules?
Do you like reading the grammar rules on this page?

Non-count nouns:

Use "the" or nothing.
He has experience, (if indefinite or mentioned for the first time)
He has the experience necessary for the job. (if definite or mentioned before)
The medicine the doctor prescribed had unpleasant side effects.
Writing in a second language is especially challenging.
Have you studied the history of South Africa?
History reminds us that events repeat themselves.

Definite Article the Rules

Adjectives as Nouns

When referring to a group of people by use of an adjective rather than a noun, use "the".

Names of Countries

Some countries are preceded by "the", usually if the name is plural, contains an adjective, or includes "of".

The United States	The Soviet Union	The Republic of Congo
America	Russia	Spain
Japan	China	Mexico

Cities and Streets use nothing

Chicago	Fifth Avenue	San Francisco
Highway 5	London	Kennedy blvd.

Rivers/Oceans, Seas, Groups of Mountains & Islands use "the"

The Amazon	The Atlantic	the Mediterranean
The Cascades	The Hawaiian	The Bahamas

Numbers

Cardinal numbers (1, 2, 3) use nothing

World War 2	Page 7	Chapter 1
Mission 1	Paragraph 5	Channel 6

Ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd) use "the"

The Second World War	The seventh page	The first chapter
The first mission	The fifth paragraph	the sixth channel

TITLES OF PEOPLE

When a title is given with a name, use nothing

President Mukherjee	Queen Mary	Professor Arvind
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When a title is used without a name, use "the"

The President	the queen	The professor
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SCHOOLS

When a school has "of" in its title, use "the"

The University of Arizona	The University of London	Chapter 2
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When a school does not have "of" in its title, use nothing

Lincoln High School	Arizona State University	Liverpool John Moores University
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Location versus Activity

When referring to an activity, use nothing

I am going to school now. (activity – study)

He is always on time for class, (activity-learn)

When referring to the location, use "the"

The meeting is at the school, (location-campus)

They are remodeling the movie theatre, (location-building)

The new student had trouble finding the class, (location-classroom)

Unique Objects- Use THE

the earth	The human race	the world
The moon	the sun	The universe

Part of a larger group, Use THE

- One of the students
- None of the students
- Both of the students
- All of the students

PREPOSITIONS

A preposition is a word such as after, in, to, on, and with. Prepositions are usually used in front of nouns or pronouns and they show the relationship between the noun or pronoun and other words in a sentence. They describe, for example:

- the position of something:
Her bag was **under** the chair.
The dog crawled **between** us and lay down at our feet.
His flat was **over** the shop.
- the time when something happens:
They arrived **on** Sunday.

The class starts **at** 9 a.m.

Shortly **after** their marriage they moved to Colorado.

- the way in which something is done'.

We went **by** train.

They stared at each other **without** speaking.

Some prepositions are made up of more than one word, for example:

They moved here **because of** the baby.

We sat **next to** each other.

The hotel is perched **on top** of a cliff.

CONJUNCTIONS

A conjunction (also called a connective) is a word such as and, because, but, for, if, or, and when. Conjunctions are used to connect phrases, clauses, and sentences.

There are two main kinds of conjunction.

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Coordinating conjunctions join items that are of equal importance in a sentence:

You can have ice cream **or** strawberries.

He plays football **and** cricket.

The weather was cold **but** clear.

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Subordinating conjunctions connect subordinate clauses to the main clause of a sentence:

I waited at home **until** she arrived.

He went to bed **because** he was tired.

Starting a sentence with a conjunction

You might have been taught that it's not good English to start a sentence with a conjunction such as *and* or *but*. It's not grammatically incorrect to do so, however, and many respected writers use conjunctions at the start of a sentence to create a dramatic or forceful effect.

For example:

What are the government's chances of winning in court? **And** what are the consequences?

Beginning a sentence with a conjunction can also be a useful way of conveying surprise:

And are you really going?

But didn't she tell you?

It's best not to overdo it, but there is no reason for

completely avoiding the use of conjunctions at the start of sentences.