

54 Articles

Articles are some of the shortest and most common words in the English language. There are several rules stating which article, if any, should be used.

 **New language** Articles

 **Aa Vocabulary** Commonly misspelled words

 **New skill** Saying words with silent letters

54.1 KEY LANGUAGE THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

Use the definite article "the" when the person or thing you are referring to is easily identifiable.

This includes situations where a person or thing has already been mentioned.

Use the definite article before superlatives.

The definite article is also used with unique objects.

It is also used for people with unique titles.

We went on a tour and the guide was excellent.

It is clear from the context that this means the tour guide.



There's a bus trip or a lecture. I'd prefer the bus trip.

The bus trip has already been mentioned.



The Colosseum is probably the most famous site in Rome.

The definite article is used before superlatives such as "most famous."



I'm going to the Trevi Fountain before I check out.

The Trevi Fountain is a unique object.



The Pope is visiting another country this week.

"Pope" is a title.



54.2 KEY LANGUAGE THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE

Use the indefinite articles "a" and "an" when the exact person or thing you are referring to is unknown.

Also use the indefinite article to talk about an entire class of people or things generally.

We are trying to choose a vacation.

The vacation is a new thing that is being introduced.



India is a fascinating country to visit.





54.3 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE

Many of ~~a / an~~ / **the** largest cities in the world are in China.

- 1 I want to visit **a / an** / **the** really modern city like Tokyo.
- 2 I've always wanted to go up **a / an** / **the** Empire State Building.
- 3 Should we go to **a / an** / **the** restaurant we ate at on Friday?
- 4 Did you ride on **a / an** / **the** gondola in Venice?



54.4 KEY LANGUAGE THE ZERO ARTICLE

You do not need an article with uncountable and plural nouns when you want to talk generally rather than specifically. This is also called the zero article.

"Sand" is an uncountable noun.

I don't like the beach. I get **sand** everywhere.

The number of sights is indefinite.

You can see **famous sights** all over New York City.



54.5 REWRITE THE SENTENCES, CORRECTING THE ERRORS

The Maracanã stadium in Rio de Janeiro is in a north of the city.



The Maracanã stadium in Rio de Janeiro is in the north of the city.

- 1 Have you ever been on guided tour of Rio de Janeiro?



- 2 The Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro is a largest statue of its type.



- 3 A soccer is a hugely popular sport in Rio and Brazil in general.



- 4 There is famous lagoon in central Rio called Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas.





54.6 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE CORRECT ARTICLES, LEAVING A GAP FOR ZERO ARTICLE

The Republic of Costa Rica in Central America has _____ estimated population of just under 5 million people and one of _____ highest life expectancy levels in the West. Its incredible beauty and the diverse nature of the flora and fauna in its rainforests make _____ Costa Rica a top destination for tourists. Indeed, tourism is _____ country's number one source of foreign exchange. As well as famous cash crops like bananas and coffee, Costa Rica boasts 1,000 species of orchids and _____ huge number of bird species. In fairly recent years, Costa Rica has tried to cut down its reliance on the income produced by the export of coffee beans, bananas, and beef by becoming _____ producer of _____ microchips. Unfortunately, _____ microchip market has turned out to be as unstable as that for cash crops.



54.7 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



Three people are talking about the geography of countries that they know well.

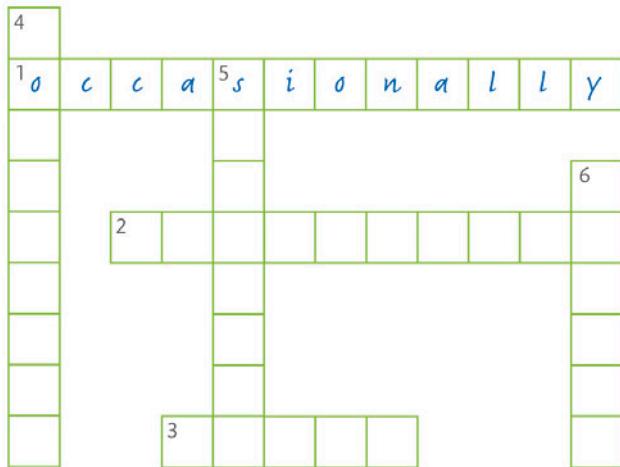
The ocean is on the eastern border of Chile.

True False

- 1 Chile contains extremely dry deserts and also lakes made from glaciers. True False
- 2 Most of South Korea's islands are to the east of the country. True False
- 3 The weather in South Korea can be quite dramatic. True False
- 4 Morocco is in the south of Europe, near North Africa. True False
- 5 Morocco is generally drier in the south than the north. True False

Aa

54.8 READ THE CLUES AND WRITE THE ANSWERS IN THE CORRECT PLACES ON THE GRID

**TIP**

The answers are all words that are commonly misspelled in English.

- 1 Sometimes, but not very often
- 2 Different from one moment to the next
- 3 Strange and unusual
- 4 Person from a country other than your own
- 5 To divide or keep things apart
- 6 How tall something is

weird occasionally height
foreigner separate changeable



54.9 PRONUNCIATION SILENT LETTERS

Some words contain letters that are written, but not spoken (also called silent letters). The letters **b**, **k**, **t**, and **h** can all be silent in some words.

plumber**knee****listen****honest**

54 ✓ CHECKLIST

Articles

Aa Commonly misspelled words

Saying words with silent letters

54.10 MARK THE SILENT LETTERS AND SAY THE SENTENCES OUT LOUD

You never listen to me!



1 I doubt we will ever see them again.



2 To be honest, the plumbing here is unusual.



3 Can you knock on my door in an hour?



4 I know you want to watch the final performance.

