



# 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.

We went on a tour and **the guide** was excellent.

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



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

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

The bus trip has already been mentioned.



Use the definite article before superlatives.

The Colosseum is probably **the most famous** site in Rome.

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



The definite article is also used with unique objects.

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

The Trevi Fountain is a unique object.



It is also used for people with unique titles.

**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.

We are trying to choose **a vacation**.

The vacation is a new thing that is being introduced.



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

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.

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

"Sand" is an uncountable noun.

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

The number of sights is indefinite.



### 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 ☐

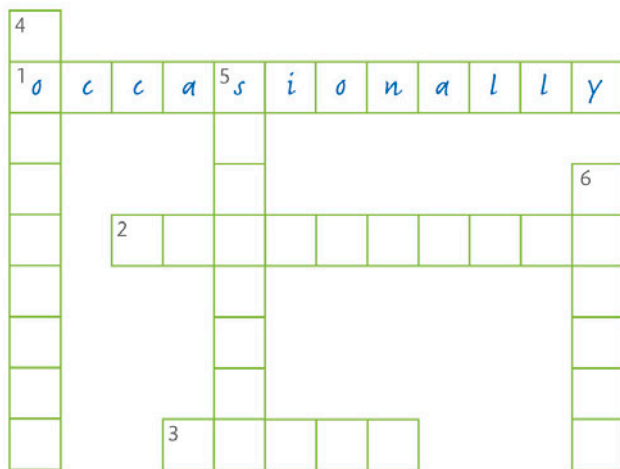
⑤ Morocco is generally drier in the south than the north. True ☐ False ☐

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



## 54.10 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.



## 54 CHECKLIST

Articles ☐

Aa Commonly misspelled words ☐

Saying words with silent letters ☐