

ARTICLES A/AN/THE AND NO ARTICLE

We use **a/an**:

- before singular countable nouns,
a doll, an onion
- when we talk about a person or thing for the first time,
I have a dog and two cats. The dog's name is Tim.
- when we talk about one of many things or people (it is not important which one exactly),
Have you got a pen? (any pen)
I need a pencil. (any pencil)
- before names of jobs.
She is an actress.
David is a teacher.

We use **the**:

- before singular and plural nouns (**the desk, the oranges**),
- when we mention somebody or something again,
I have a dog and two cats. The dog's name is Tim.
- when we talk about a concrete person or thing (in singular or plural), and the listener knows which person/thing we mean,
Where are the car-keys? (the listener knows which car-keys).
The boys in my class are very clever. (particular boys, those in my class)
- when there is only one of the things we talk about (**the sun, the Pope**),
- before a surname + family (**the Smith family, the Chandler family**),
- before the times of the day (**in the morning, in the evening**),
- before the names of rooms or places near the house (**in the bedroom, in the garden**),
- before superlatives (**the worst film, the most intelligent girl**),

- before ordinal numbers (**the first, the second**),
- before numbers referring to centuries (**the seventeenth century, the twentieth century**),
- before the names of rivers (**the Thames, the Nile**), seas (**the Baltic Sea, the Red Sea**) and oceans (**the Atlantic, the Pacific**),
- before the names of mountain ranges (**the Tatra Mountains, the Alps**) and island groups (**the Canary Islands, the Bahamas**).

We do **NOT** use articles:

- before plural nouns when we talk about things or people in general or mention them for the first time,
Teenagers can be very noisy. (teenagers in general, not a particular group of teenagers)
Dogs make good pets. (dogs in general, not a particular group of dogs)
- before uncountable nouns when we talk about something in general,
Money is important.
Curiosity is a good quality.
- with days of the week and months (**on Monday, on Thursday, in May, in September**),
- with years (**in 2006, in 1856**),
- with the names of continents and most countries (**in Europe, in America, in Slovakia**),
- with the names of cities/towns/villages (**in Glasgow, in Paris, in Bournemouth**),
- with the names of streets/roads (**in Cumberland Street, in Pine Road**), stations (**from Highgate Station**) and airports (**to Heathrow Airport, from Gatwick**),
- with the names of lakes (**Lake Michigan, Lake Superior**), individual mountains (**Mount Everest, Mount Etna**) and individual islands (**Sicily, Bermuda**),
- with the names of meals (**before lunch, after breakfast**).

GRAMMAR • INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS • SOMEBODY/ANYBODY/NOBODY/EVERYBODY

We use indefinite pronouns:

- **somebody, nobody, anybody, everybody** to talk about people,
- **something, nothing, anything, everything** to talk about things,
- **somewhere, nowhere, anywhere, everywhere** to talk about places.

They are all followed by a singular verb.

We use **everybody/everyone, everything** and **everywhere**:

- in affirmative sentences.

Everybody wants to speak English well.

I informed her about **everything**.

You can buy them **everywhere**.

We use **somebody/someone, something** and **somewhere**:

- in affirmative sentences,

I need to do **something** to help him.

Somebody called you yesterday.

He lives **somewhere** in Paris.

- in questions while making an offer or request.

Can I get you **something** to eat?

Can **somebody** stay at work longer today?

Could you recommend **somewhere** cheap where we could stay the night?

We often use **anybody/anyone, anything** and **anywhere**:

- in questions,

Do you keep in touch with **anybody** from our class?

Does she know **anything** about computers?

Have you seen Barbara **anywhere**?

- in negative sentences.

There isn't **anything** more to do.

I didn't particularly like **anybody**.

I don't want to go **anywhere**.

We use **nobody/no one, nothing** and **nowhere**:

- in affirmative sentences.

Nobody wants to help me.

I heard **nothing** about it.

Nowhere is safe.

Nobody/no one/nothing/nowhere have a negative meaning, and that is why the sentences in which they are used take an affirmative form.

Nobody waited for me at the airport. (NOT ~~Nobody didn't wait for me at the airport.~~)

Nothing is more important than love. (NOT ~~Nothing is not more important than love.~~)

There is **nowhere** to park. (NOT ~~There isn't nowhere to park.~~)

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES AND PRONOUNS

To express possession/the idea of belonging in English, we can use possessive adjectives (*my, her*) or possessive pronouns (*mine, hers*).

We use **possessive adjectives** before nouns:

My pen is on the desk.

Did you meet her brother?

Possessive pronouns are used on their own, without nouns (often at the end of the sentence).

This pen is mine.

Are these trousers yours?

Subject pronouns	Possessive adjectives	Possessive pronouns
I	my pen	mine
you	your pen	yours
he	his pen	his
she	her pen	hers
it	its pen	its
we	our pen	ours
you	your pen	yours
they	their pen	theirs

's genitive, of genitive

To express possession/the idea of belonging of someone or something to a given person, animal, thing or place, we can use one of the two possessive forms: **'s genitive** or **of genitive**.

The possessive form with 's ('s genitive) always comes before a noun.

Tom's wife (NOT *wife Tom's*)

the boy's uniform (NOT *the-uniform-boy's*)

To form 's genitive:

- we add an apostrophe and s ('s) to singular nouns,

Pete's notebook, my brother's bicycle

- we add only an apostrophe (') to regular plural nouns,

his grandparents' house, my friends' car

- we add an apostrophe and s ('s) to irregular plural nouns.

their children's school, these women's surnames

In written language and formal speech, **of** genitive is used more often than 's genitive.

Both forms ('s genitive and **of** genitive) can be used:

- for groups of people/organizations,

the team's new logo / the new logo of the team

the government's decision / the decision of the government

- for places.

Warsaw's famous Old Town Square / the famous Old Town Square of Warsaw

London's museums / the museums of London

We use 's genitive:

- with people and animals,

the girl's doll, a bird's beak

- with time expressions.

Tuesday's edition, seven hours' sleep

We use **of** genitive:

- with things,

the winner of the contest the roof of the house

- with the words like *end, top, front, middle*.

at the end of the concert

in the middle of the book

If someone or something belongs to two people or animals, we add 's only to the last noun.

Matthew and Bethany's computer

If the meaning is clear, we can use a possessive without a following noun.

Whose dress was more expensive? Barbara's.
(it is clear that we are talking about a dress)

ADJECTIVES • COMPARATIVES/SUPERLATIVES

We use the comparative adjective (and *than*) to compare two things, people, actions or events.

Who is **shorter**, you or your brother?

My homework is **more difficult** than yours.

When a pronoun comes after **than**, it is usually an object pronoun (*me, you, him, her, it, us, or them*).

She is faster **than** me.

You are more intelligent **than** him.

We use the superlative adjective to compare a thing, person, action or event with the whole group to which this thing, person, action or event belongs. We normally use **the** before a superlative. After a superlative we can use **in** or **of**. We use **in** with a singular word for a place or group.

Little Harry is **the youngest** in our family.

Ella is **the prettiest** girl in our school.

For me Ronaldo is **the most famous** football player of all.

This is **the coldest** month of the year.

To compare things, people and actions, we can also use the following patterns:

• too,

This cake is **too** sweet for me.

Our holiday was **too** short.

• not enough,

Your test results are **not** good **enough**.

The water wasn't warm **enough** to take a bath.

• (not) as ... as.

Robert is **as** clever **as** his brother.

Our new teacher is **not as** patient **as** Mrs Smith.

We use **so** and **such** to emphasize the meaning of adjectives.

I was **so** happy when our baby was born.
(really happy)

She is **such** a nice girl. (really nice)

• such is used before an adjective followed by a noun,

It was **such** a beautiful day.

Angela and Tom are **such** good friends.

• so is used before an adjective alone, without a noun.

It was **so** warm yesterday.

I was **so** tired that I couldn't fall asleep.

In exclamations with adjectives we can also use **What** and **How**.

How nice of you to think of that!

What a lovely day!

• what is used before an adjective followed by a noun,

What a good idea!

What stupid things you're talking about!

• how is used before an adjective alone, without a noun.

How strange!

How kind of him to remind me!

Spelling rules:

ADJECTIVES	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
one-syllable <i>long, hard</i>	add -er <i>longer, harder</i>	add -est <i>the longest, the hardest</i>
one-syllable, ending with -e <i>nice, large</i>	add -r <i>nicer, larger</i>	add -st <i>the nicest, the largest</i>
one-syllable, with one vowel and one consonant at the end <i>hot, thin</i>	double the last consonant and add -er <i>hotter, thinner</i>	double the last consonant and add -est <i>the hottest, the thinnest</i>
two-syllable, ending with a consonant and -y <i>easy, funny</i>	change -y to -i and add -er <i>easier, funnier</i>	change -y to -i and add -est <i>the easiest, the funniest</i>
many two-syllable and all longer <i>comfortable, modern</i>	add more before the adjective <i>more comfortable, more modern</i>	add the most before the adjective <i>the most comfortable, the most modern</i>
irregular <i>good</i> <i>bad</i> <i>little</i> <i>far</i>	<i>better</i> <i>worse</i> <i>less</i> <i>further (farther)</i>	<i>the best</i> <i>the worst</i> <i>the least</i> <i>the furthest (farthest)</i>

-ING FORMS AND INFINITIVES

Sometimes two verbs come in an English sentence together one after the other. Then the first verb can be followed by the second verb in one of the following patterns:

- **verb + -ing**

(e.g.: *avoid, can't stand, consider, enjoy, hate, like, love, miss, not mind, practise, prefer, start, stop, suggest*),

*I **love** watching westerns on TV.*

*Laura **can't stand** waiting for the bus in the morning.*

- **verb + to + infinitive**

(e.g.: *afford, agree, choose, decide, help, hope, learn, manage, need, offer, plan, promise, seem, want, wish, would like/love/prefer*),

*I **learnt** to swim when I was 7.*

*She **promised** to take me to the cinema.*

- **verb + object + to + infinitive**

(e.g.: *advise, allow, beg, help, invite, order, tell, want, would like/love/prefer*)

*Mark **begged** me to stay with him.*

*They **advised** Peter not to go there.*

- **verb (modal) + infinitive without to**

(e.g.: *can, could, might, must, should*),

*You **should** obey your father.*

*I **can** go with you if you want.*

- **verb + object + infinitive without to** (e.g.: *let, make*)

***Let** me show you how to do it.*

*My mother **made** me clean the bathroom.*

- The verb *help* can be followed by verb + infinitive without to or infinitive + to.

*Can you **help** your sister lay the table?*

*Can you **help** your sister to lay the table?*