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B1 ARTICLES ≈ 27 MIN

Articles: General and Specific Meaning – *practice on paper*

You know the meaning contrast - now reinforce zero article, the, and first/second mention with fresh examples.

General plural/uncountable = zero article; **identified** = the; first mention = a/an, second mention = the.

NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR BUILD 1 · SORTING ◯ 2 · FILL-IN ◯ 3 · CORRECT ◯ 4 · WRITE ◯

BRICK 1 · SORT GENERAL OR SPECIFIC · APPROX. 4 MIN ●○○

Sort each sentence. General plurals and general uncountable meanings take zero article; identified groups and things take **the**.

Deadlines create pressure.
The deadlines in this contract are realistic.
Research takes time.
The research from our pilot is complete.
Customers value clarity.
The customers in the waiting area need help.
Training improves confidence.
The training we booked starts tomorrow.
Reports need clear headings.
The reports on my desk are for the board.

GENERAL - ZERO ARTICLE	SPECIFIC - THE

BRICK 2 · FILL IN A, AN, THE, OR NOTHING · APPROX. 6 MIN ●●○

Fill in **a**, **an**, **the**, or zero article. First decide: general, identified, first mention, or profession?

01 In general, _____ deadlines affect every project.
02 _____ deadlines in our new contract are realistic.
03 _____ feedback helps teams improve.
04 _____ feedback from yesterday's session was very specific.
05 At the expo, we met _____ designer for the first time.
06 We met a designer at the expo. _____ designer showed us a new app.
07 Jon is _____ engineer in the product team.
08 Yesterday I spoke to _____ new client for the first time.

YOUR BUILD 1 · SORTING 2 · FILL-IN 3 · CORRECT 4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · FIND AND CORRECT THE MISTAKE · APPROX. 7 MIN

Each sentence contains exactly one article error. Underline it and write the complete sentence correctly.

01 The patience matters when a project changes suddenly.

02 Managers need the clear goals.

03 Nadia is project manager in our Hamburg office.

04 We selected a venue for the workshop. A venue is near the station.

05 In general, the creativity helps teams find new solutions.

06 In general, the reports need clear headings.

BRICK 4 · WRITE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC MEANING · APPROX. 8 MIN

Write your own English sentences for each prompt. For each noun, check whether you are speaking generally or identifying something.

01 General plural: make a general statement about emails, appointments, or customers.

02 Uncountable meaning: make a general statement about communication or experience.

03 Specific group: name a group in general and then an identified subgroup with the.

04 First and second mention: introduce a person or thing with a/an and then refer back with the.

MINI-CHECK — CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ I use zero article with general plurals.
- ☐ I use zero article with general uncountable meaning.
- ☐ I use the to show that a person, thing, or group is identified.
- ☐ I introduce something with a/an and refer back to it with the on second mention.

Not secure on every point yet? Label each sentence general or identified and then try the sheet again.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

01 **General** - Deadlines create pressure.
The general plural deadlines takes zero article.

02 **Specific** - The deadlines in this contract are realistic.
The identifies the deadlines in this contract.

03 **General** - Research takes time.
The general uncountable noun research takes zero article.

04 **Specific** - The research from our pilot is complete.
The identifies the research from the pilot.

05 **General** - Customers value clarity.
The plural customers refers to the group in general.

06 **Specific** - The customers in the waiting area need help.
The identifies the customers in the waiting area.

07 **General** - Training improves confidence.
Training takes zero article in its general uncountable meaning.

08 **Specific** - The training we booked starts tomorrow.
The identifies the training that was booked.

09 **General** - Reports need clear headings.
The general plural reports takes zero article.

10 **Specific** - The reports on my desk are for the board.
The identifies the reports on the desk.

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 In general, deadlines affect every project. **(no article)**
The general plural deadlines takes zero article.

02 **The** deadlines in our new contract are realistic.
The identifies the deadlines in the new contract.

03 Feedback helps teams improve. **(no article)**
Feedback is general and uncountable here.

04 **The** feedback from yesterday's session was very specific.
The identifies the feedback from yesterday's session.

05 At the expo, we met **a** designer for the first time.
A introduces one person for the first time.

06 We met a designer at the expo. **The** designer showed us a new app.
On second mention, the refers back to the same person.

07 Jon is **an** engineer in the product team.
A singular profession needs a/an; engineer starts with a vowel sound.

08 Yesterday I spoke to **a** new client for the first time.
A introduces the one new client for the first time.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 **Patience** matters when a project changes suddenly.
The general uncountable noun patience takes zero article.

02 Managers need **clear goals**.
The general plural goals takes zero article.

03 Nadia is **a** project manager in our Hamburg office.
A singular profession takes a/an.

04 We selected a venue for the workshop. **The** venue is near the station.
On second mention, the refers back to the same venue.

05 In general, **creativity** helps teams find new solutions.
The general uncountable noun creativity takes zero article.

06 In general, **reports** need clear headings.
The general plural reports takes zero article.

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Your sentences may differ - just check that the article matches general or identified meaning.

01 "**Emails** need clear subject lines."
The general plural emails takes zero article.

02 "**Communication** builds trust."
The general uncountable noun communication takes zero article.

03 "Customers ask questions, but **the customers on this call** need a decision."
The first plural is general; the identifies the group on the call.

04 "We hired **an analyst**. **The analyst** starts on Monday."
An introduces the person; the then refers back to the same person.

NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

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