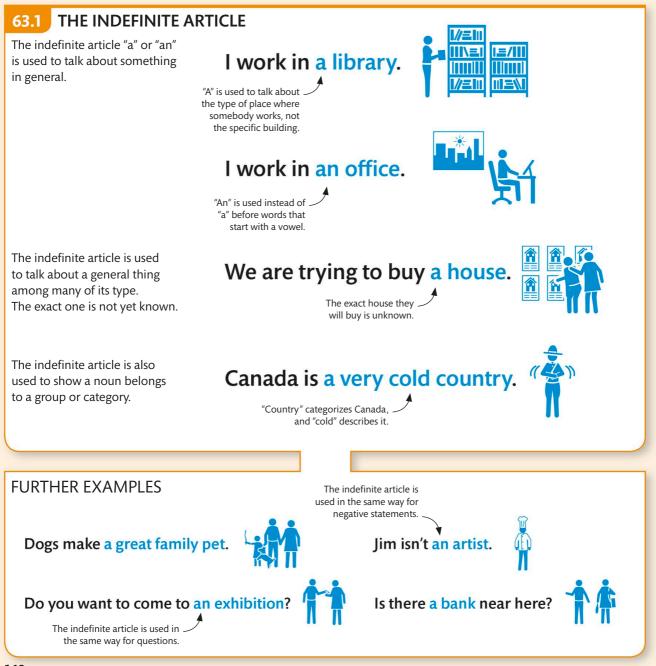
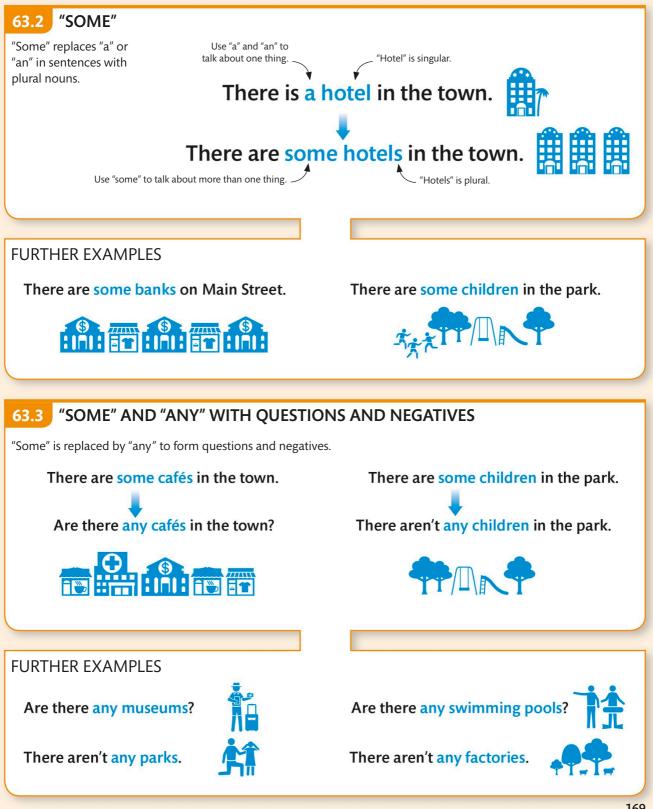


Articles are short words which come before nouns to show whether they refer to a general or a specific object. There are several rules telling which article, if any, should be used.

See also:

Singular and plural nouns **69** Countable and uncountable nouns **70** Superlative adjectives **97**





THE DEFINITE ARTICLE 63.4

The definite article "the" is used to talk about a specific person or thing that everyone understands.

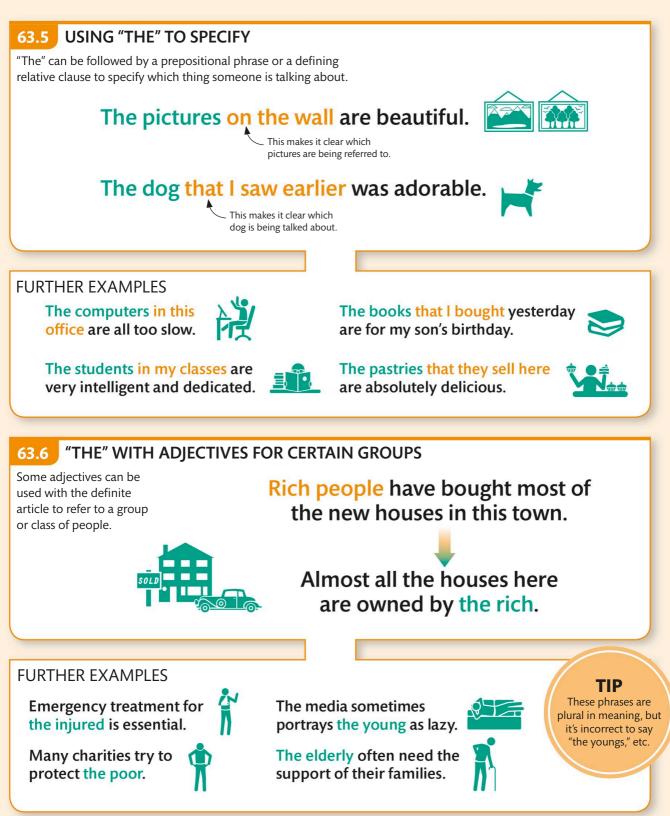


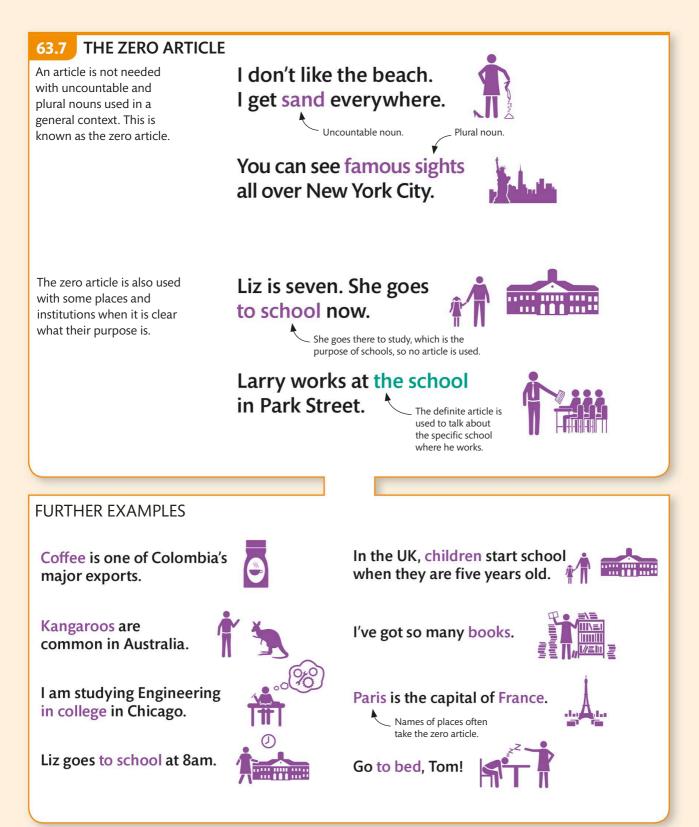
When a person or thing has been mentioned already, "the" is used the next time the thing or person is talked about.

The definite article is used before superlatives.

The definite article is also used with unique objects.

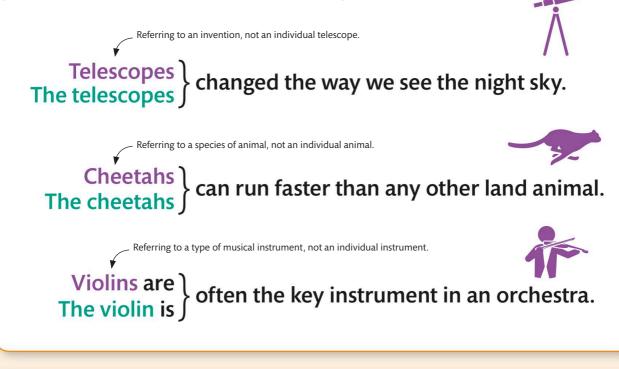
It is also used for people with unique titles.





63.8 THE ZERO ARTICLE AND GENERIC "THE"

The zero article can be used with plural nouns to talk about a class of things in general. This can also be done with the definite article, plus a singular noun.



63.9 DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE ARTICLES WITH NAMES

The zero article is normally used with the name of a person.

The definite article is used before a person's name to differentiate them from another person with the same name.

The indefinite article is used when the focus is on a particular name, rather than the person. This is my uncle, Neil Armstrong.



He's not the Neil Armstrong, is he? [He isn't the famous person with that name, is he?]

In this case, "the" is



I'm afraid there isn't a "Joseph Bloggs" on the list.

[The particular name given is not on the list.]

