

## This is **unit 5** key presentation

### Using articles (a, an, the)

#### Rule 1

Use **a / an** before a general singular count noun (SCN).  
*so you can answer the Q. 'What'?*

- My mother is **a teacher**.
- Many people believe 13 is **an unlucky number**.

### Using articles (a, an, the)

#### Rule 2

Use **the** when talking about something specific.  
*so you can answer the Q. 'Which'?*

- We're reading **the fifth unit**.

### Using articles (a, an, the)

#### Rule 3

Use **the** when talking about something already mentioned.

- Dinner consisted of steak, potatoes, and carrots. **The steak** was great, but I didn't like **the potatoes** or **the carrots**.

### Using articles (a, an, the)

#### Rule 4

Use **the** when talking about superlative form.

- **The most interesting movie** was *The Hunger Games*.

### Using articles (a, an, the)

#### Rule 5

Do NOT use an article when talking about something abstract, or UCN, or proper noun.

- **Learning** is fun.
- **Sugar** is bad for your teeth.
- **India** is a democratic country.
- **Gold** is a precious metal.

**CAUTION:**

On some occasions, UCN may take the article **the**:

*Would you pass me **the sugar**?*  
 (= the sugar on the table)

**REMARK:**

We do not use articles with the meal, but we use **the** when talking about a particular meal.

*I had **a late dinner** yesterday.*  
**The lunch** we just had was very good.

**REMARK:**

We do not use articles with languages, names of continents, countries, capes, cities, towns, days, months, arts, sciences, some diseases

*Can you speak **Japanese**?*  
*They speak **Mandarin** at home.*  
**December** is a cold month.

**Using articles (a, an, the)****Rule 7**

Do NOT use **the** when talking about things in general. It is more common to use a plural count noun (PCN) without **the**.

• **Computers** are found in many American homes.

**Now, compare:**

*Teachers are friendly.*  
 (general = any teachers are friendly)

*The teachers are friendly.*  
 (specific = the teachers at a particular place)

**Using articles (a, an, the)****Rule 8**

Do NOT use articles with certain expressions, e.g. on foot, at school, from top to bottom, at home, in bed, by train, by car, in debt, in hand, on earth, at noon, on board, in jest, at best, at worst

• He is **in debt**.  
 • He is **at school**.  
 • He spent two days **in bed**.

**Using articles (a, an, the)**

**Rule 9**  
Do NOT use articles with certain expressions (TV), e.g. give ear, set sail, take heart, send word, catch fire, take offence, leave office, leave home, leave office

- He **took offence** at my words.
- She **left home** in the morning.

**Using articles (a, an, the)**

**Rule 10**  
Do NOT use articles with certain expressions (TV), e.g. give ear, set sail, take heart, send word, catch fire, take offence, leave office, leave home, leave office

- He **took offence** at my words.
- She **left home** in the morning.

**Using articles (a, an, the)**

**Rule 11**  
Do NOT use articles before the nouns following **kind of**:

- What **kind of flower** is it?
- What **kind of a flower** is it?

Don't forget to check the official site of this course:

[ngl.cengage.com/gw](http://ngl.cengage.com/gw)  
and [cmuonline.ac.th](http://cmuonline.ac.th)

good luck ...!!!