

## Lecture Four Determiners

### I-Definite and Indefinite Articles

#### 1-a /an ( the indefinite article)

##### A) Use of a/an

a)-We use a before singular count nouns that begin with consonants :

a woman            a boy            a country            a school

b)-we use an before singular count-nouns that begin with vowels (a,e, i, o,u)

an apple            an egg            an image            an orange \*

c)-a or an is used to introduce a noun when it is mentioned for the first time :

His car struck a tree ; you can still see the mark on the tree.

d) Before names of professions :

She will be a dentist            He is an engineer

e)-In certain expressions of quantity

a lot of    a great deal of    a couple    a dozen

\*

f)-With certain numbers : a hundred            a thousand

g)-Before half when half follows a whole number :

1 ½ = one and a half kilo or a kilo and a half . But,

½ kilo= half a kilo

h)-In expressions of price, speed, ratio etc :

20 dinars a kilo.            sixty km an hour .            five times a week.

I)-In exclamations before singular, countable nouns: What a pretty girl!

Such a long journey !

##### B)-Omission of a/ an

a)- Before plural nouns : a man    men

b)- Before uncountable nouns : water not a water.

c)-Before names of meals ( breakfast, lunch, dinner) : What time do you serve dinner ? \*

## 2-The ( the indefinite article)

The is the same for singular and plural and for all genders : the boy/ the boys, the girl : the girls, the day/ the days.

### A)- Use of the

a)- When the object or group of objects is unique or considered to be unique : the earth, the moon, the sky, the stars.

b)-Before a noun which has become definite as a result of being mentioned again :

She has got two children : a boy and a girl. The boy is fourteen and the girl is eight.

c)-Before a noun made definite by the addition of a phrase or a clause : The girl in blue/  
The man with the banner/ The place where we met.

d)-Before superlatives and **first, second** etc ; used as adjectives or pronouns and **only** :

the best player      the first (day)      the only solution

e)-the is also used in proper names consisting of noun(s) and / or adjective(s) + noun :

the Empire State Building / the English Channel/ the White House / the Festival Hall.

f)- the + singular noun can represent a class of animals or things : The Dolphin is an intelligent animal. / The computer has changed our lives.

g)-the + adjective represents a class of persons :

the elderly / the blind / the deaf \* ( also national adjectives ending in ch, sh, se, ss)

h)-Before certain names of seas, rivers, groups of islands, chain of mountains, plural names of countries, deserts, regions : the Atlantic / the Thames / the Alps / the Netherlands / the Sahara / the Riviera... ;

noun+ of + noun : the Gulf of Mexico / the United States of America

Before the adjectives east/ west + noun in certain names :

the East / West Indies, the North / South Pole.

But is normally omitted : South Africa / North America / West Germany.

I)-the + plural surname can be used to mean ‘ the... ; family’ : the Smiths, the Jordans...

j)-with forms of entertainment but not the medium of television :

I go to the cinema, the theatre, the circus, the ballet, the opera.

I listen to the radio.

## **B/ Omission of the**

a)-Before abstract nouns : death, advice, courage, help, love, fear ...\*

b)-Before names of meals : they were having breakfast when I arrived\*

c)Before names of games : He plays tennis.

d)-Before indefinite plural nouns : Women are expected to like babies

Big hotels all over the world are very much the same.

e)-Before home :She went home

f)-Before bed, church, court, hospital, prison, school, college, university etc. when these are used for their primary purpose : I'm tired, I'm going to bed. He had to go to hospital for treatment.

But : She sat on the bed while she changed her socks.

g)-Before town : We go to town sometimes to buy clothes. We were in town last week ;

h)-With names of countries : Algeria, Spain, Germany.

I)-In front of most roads, streets, parks, squares, or bridges :

Oxford Street, Central Park, Times Square...

Exercise 1- Fill in the blank with the correct article.

1-Harold is..... most obnoxious person I know. (a / b)

2-Diana is .....very nice person.( the / a)

3-Last night we went out for .....meal. (an / a)

4-Have you already had .....lunch ? (the / Ø)

5-I spoke to several people at the party. Was John .....one with the red hair ? (Ø / the )

6-I'd like to invite him to .....dinner next week, if that's ok with you. ( a / Ø )

7-Could you close.....door , please ? It's really cold. ( the / a )

8-We have got new offices near.....center of the city.( a / the )

9-.....Tiger is a dangerous animal. (a / Ø )

10-For lunch I had a sandwich. I cannot remember what filling was in .....sandwich.  
(the / a)

11- We need to do more for .....poor.( the / a)

12-The greatest invention of the 20th century is .....computer. ( a / the )

13-I'm looking for.....new job. (the / a)

14-.....apple a day keeps the doctor away.( a / an)

15-After graduating from high school he went to.....university.( Ø / the ).

Exercise two Fill in the blanks with the appropriate article : a, an, or the, or leave the space blank if no article is needed.

1-I want.....apple from the basket.

2-.....Whale is the largest mammal.

3-Miss Lin speaks .....chinese.

4-I borrowed ..... pencil from your pile of pencils and pens.

5- One of the students said,' .....professor is late today'.

6-Ali likes to play .....volleyball.

7-I bought .....an umbrella to go out in the rain.

8-My daughter is learning to play.....violin at her school.

9-Please give me.....cake that is on the counter.

10-I lived on.....Main Street when I first came to town.

11-Albany is the capital of New York State.

12-She is .....architect and he is .....doctor.

13-.....ink in my pen is red.

14-Many Chinese still believe .....Englishman always carries .....umbrella.

15-It's .....old custom.

16-It's .....strange old custom.

17-I have two cars, .....Ford and .....Audi.

18-.....Ford is white and ..... Audi is silver.

19-He earns \$ 200.....day. She swims twice .....week. He drove at 60 miles .....hour.

20-She stayed in .....bed on Sunday instead of going to .....school.

21-The dissident was released from.....prison.

