

## Articles

Basic rules: *a / an / the*, no article

My neighbour has just bought **a** dog. **The** dog is **an** Alsatian. (5 37))  
 He got into **the** car and drove to **the** Town Hall.  
**Men** are better at parking than **women**.  
 I don't like **sport** or **classical music**.  
 I stayed **at home** **last** weekend.

Use *a* or *an* when you mention somebody or something for the first time or say who or what somebody or something is. Use *the* when it's clear who or what somebody or something is (e.g. it has been mentioned before or it's unique).

Don't use an article to speak in general with plural and uncountable nouns, or in phrases like *at home / work, go home / to bed, next / last (week)*, etc.

## Institutions

My father's **in hospital**. (5 38))  
 They're building **a new hospital** in my town.  
 He was sent **to prison** for two years.  
 My grandmother used to work in **the prison** as a cleaner.

With words like *prison, church, school, hospital, and university*, don't use an article when you are thinking about the institution and the normal purpose it was used for. If you are just thinking about the building, use *a* or *the*.

more rules: geographical names

- 1 **Tunisia** is in **North Africa**. (5 39))
- 2 **Selfridges**, one of London's biggest department stores, is in **Oxford Street**.
- 3 **Lake Victoria** and **Mount Kilimanjaro** are both in Africa.
- 4 **The River Danube** flows into **the Black Sea**.
- 5 **The National Gallery** and **the British Museum** are London tourist attractions.

We **don't normally use** *the* with:

- 1 most countries, continents, regions ending with the name of a country / continent, e.g. *North America, South East Asia*, islands, states, provinces, towns, and cities (exceptions: *The USA, the UK / United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic*).
- 2 roads, streets, parks, bridges, shops, and restaurants (exceptions: motorways and numbered roads, *the M6, the A25*).
- 3 individual mountains and lakes.

We **normally use** *the* with:

- 4 mountain ranges, rivers, seas, canals, deserts, and island groups.
- 5 the names of theatres, cinemas, hotels, galleries, and museums.

Circle the correct article.

- James bought a / the / (-) new suit at the weekend.
- The weather was awful, so we stayed at a / the / (-) home.
- A / The / (-) dishwasher we bought last week has stopped working already.
- I love reading a / the / (-) historical novels.
- Sarah had had an exhausting day, so she went to a / the / (-) bed early.
- I saw a man walking with a woman in the park. A / The / (-) woman was crying.
- The teachers are on strike, so the children aren't going to a / the / (-) school.
- Turn left immediately after a / the / (-) church and go up the hill.
- My neighbour's in a / the / (-) prison because he didn't pay his taxes.
- People are complaining because the council have refused to build a / the / (-) new hospital.
- Visitors will not be allowed to enter a / the / (-) hospital after 7 p.m.

Complete with *the* or (-).

- They're going to the USA to visit family.
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Sicily is the largest island in \_\_\_\_\_ Mediterranean.
  - 2 Cairo is on \_\_\_\_\_ River Nile.
  - 3 We didn't have time to visit \_\_\_\_\_ Louvre when we were in Paris.
  - 4 \_\_\_\_\_ south west England is famous for its beautiful countryside and beaches.
  - 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Mount Everest is in \_\_\_\_\_ Himalayas.
  - 6 The largest inland lake is \_\_\_\_\_ Caspian Sea.
  - 7 We stayed at \_\_\_\_\_ Palace Hotel while we were in Madrid.
  - 8 *Romeo and Juliet* is on at \_\_\_\_\_ Globe Theatre.
  - 9 Mont Blanc is the highest mountain in \_\_\_\_\_ Alps.
  - 10 I've always wanted to visit \_\_\_\_\_ India.



# 10B The power of words

## 1 READING

- a Read the article once. Why didn't Marlon Brando collect his Oscar?
- b Read the article again and choose the correct answer.
  - 1 For the writer, the most interesting part of the Oscars ceremony is when...
    - a we find out who has won each category.
    - b the celebrities pose for photographs.
    - c the winners speak.
    - d we see excerpts from the nominated films.
  - 2 When Sacheen Littlefeather went up on stage, she...
    - a refused to accept the Oscar statuette.
    - b greeted the two presenters.
    - c announced the winning actor.
    - d turned off the microphone.
  - 3 Marlon Brando was protesting because he thought that the film industry should...
    - a employ more Native Americans in their films.
    - b apologize to Native Americans.
    - c return the Pine Ridge reservation to Native Americans.
    - d stop contributing to a negative stereotype of Native Americans.
  - 4 While Ms Littlefeather was speaking, the people in the audience...
    - a sat in silence.
    - b were divided in their opinion.
    - c showed their support.
    - d wanted her to stop.
  - 5 After Marlon Brando's boycott, the organizers of the ceremony...
    - a declared their support for Native Americans.
    - b reduced the length of acceptance speeches.
    - c changed the rules for who could pick up Oscars.
    - d gave an award to Sacheen Littlefeather.
- c Look at the highlighted words and phrases in the text. What do you think they mean? Use your dictionary to look up their meaning and pronunciation.

## CONFUSION AND CONTROVERSY AT THE OSCARS

Every year, cinema-goers all over the world eagerly await the annual Academy Awards ceremony, better known as the Oscars. The red carpet is rolled out, the actors are photographed in their elegant gowns and dinner suits and the winners are announced. And then comes the moment of truth: the acceptance speeches. Some of these are more memorable than others, but none will be remembered more than one that was made at the 45th Academy Awards ceremony of 1973. This is what happened.

The moment had arrived for the announcement of the winner of the Oscar for Best Actor. The award was to be presented by Roger Moore, who was the current James Bond, and Norwegian actress Liv Ullman. The two opened the envelope and announced the name of the winner: Marlon Brando for his role as Vito Corleone in the film *The Godfather*. To everyone's surprise, it was not Mr Brando who came on stage, but a young woman in Native American dress. The woman was a Native American activist called Sacheen Littlefeather. She proceeded to brush aside Roger Moore when he tried to give her the statuette and made her way towards the microphone. Here she gave a 60-second speech introducing herself, explaining why she was there instead of the famous actor and apologizing for interrupting the ceremony. The audience – and the presenters – were gobsmacked!

The reason for Mr Brando's absence was that he was boycotting the ceremony. In previous years, he had become increasingly upset by the treatment of American Indians on television and in films, where they were always portrayed as savage and evil. He was also very concerned about an ongoing incident on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Tired of their corrupt leader, who was backed by the US government, a group of armed Native Americans had taken over the town of Wounded Knee. At the time of the Oscar ceremony, the Native Americans were still holding the town against US officials, including the FBI.

Mr Brando had put down the reasons for his boycott in a 15-page speech which he had given Ms Littlefeather to read at the ceremony. The organizers, however, had prohibited her from making this speech, so she had gone ahead and improvised with her own much shorter version, which caused quite a stir. Halfway through, some of the audience started booing and others began to cheer. Yet she continued bravely to the end and then allowed the two presenters to escort her backstage, where she shared Mr Brando's original speech with the press. The next day it was printed in its entirety in the New York Times.

Ms Littlefeather received several death threats after her intervention at the Oscar ceremony, but she continued fighting for the cause and still works with the Native American community today. The Wounded Knee incident finished after 73 days and succeeded in making Americans more aware of the injustice suffered by American Indians in their country. And as far as the Oscar ceremony is concerned, it was the last time that an actor was allowed to nominate someone else to collect an award on his or her behalf.



2 GRAMMAR articles

- a Complete the sayings with *a*, *an*, *the* or no article (—).
- 1 All you need is — love.
  - 2 He's — man of his word.
  - 3 — women are from Venus, — men are from Mars.
  - 4 — time waits for no man.
  - 5 Don't worry! It's not — end of — world!
  - 6 That's — life!
  - 7 It's — small world.
  - 8 — actions speak louder than — words.

- b Complete the sentences with *the* where necessary.



1 The toy industry in — China is the biggest in the world.



2 There are 50 states in — USA.



3 — M1 motorway was closed yesterday because of the floods.



4 — Hyde Park is one of — largest green spaces in London.



5 Edmund Hillary was — first man to climb — Mount Everest.



6 — Lake Victoria is — largest lake in — Africa.



7 — Panama Canal connects the Atlantic Ocean to — Pacific Ocean.



8 — Balearic Islands are situated in — Mediterranean Sea.

- c Right (✓) or wrong (✗)? Correct the mistakes in the highlighted phrases.

- 1 The university in my town has a very good reputation. ✓
- 2 My grandfather's in the hospital having an operation. ✗ *in hospital*
- 3 The man has gone to the prison for the crimes he committed when he was younger. —
- 4 Daisy takes advantage of the time her children are at the school to do an online course. —
- 5 The prison is on the outskirts of the city. —
- 6 Somebody broke into my parents' house while they were at the church. —
- 7 We caught the bus from the stop near the hospital. —
- 8 My boyfriend's at the university. He's studying architecture. —
- 9 My brother teaches in the primary school that we both attended. —
- 10 The church in my village dates back to the fifteenth century. —

3 VOCABULARY collocation: word pairs

- a Find the word pairs in the box and link them with *and* or *or*. Then complete the sentences.

all bed breakfast fork ice knife later  
lemon less more never nothing now once  
peace pepper quiet salt sooner twice

- 1 Would you like *ice and lemon* with your mineral water?
- 2 I enjoy the — of the countryside when we go for a walk.
- 3 I've got a new wisdom tooth. I suppose I'll have to go to the dentist —.
- 4 It takes ages for children to learn to eat with a — properly.
- 5 We stayed in a fairly cheap — when we visited London.
- 6 Nathan has — finished his homework – all he has to do now is to print it out.
- 7 It's — with Sue; either she calls every day or you don't hear from her for weeks.
- 8 This soup doesn't taste of anything. Can you pass the — please?
- 9 Patricia's about to leave, so it's — – I may not get another chance to ask her out.
- 10 I've been skiing —, but I'm not very good at it.

**b** Complete the word pair idioms.

- 1 We only take a few bits and p\_\_\_\_\_ with us when we go on holiday.
- 2 I'm s\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_ of having to tidy up after my children.
- 3 She left her husband because there wasn't any g\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_ in their marriage.
- 4 My life has its u\_\_\_\_\_ and d\_\_\_\_\_, but in general I'm quite happy.
- 5 The streets were very dangerous because of the lack of l\_\_\_\_\_ and o\_\_\_\_\_ in the city.
- 6 We arrived s\_\_\_\_\_ and s\_\_\_\_\_ after a three-day journey through the mountains.
- 7 I've no idea what we're having for lunch because my wife told me to w\_\_\_\_\_ and s\_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 We go to the cinema n\_\_\_\_\_ and a\_\_\_\_\_, but more often than not we just watch a film on TV.

**4 PRONUNCIATION** /ðə/ or /ði:/

**a** Tick (✓) the correct pronunciation of *the*.

- |   | /ðə/ | /ði:/ |
|---|------|-------|
| 1 She bought a new coat in the sales.             | ✓    | —     |
| 2 The accident happened last night.               | —    | —     |
| 3 The clocks go back next weekend.                | —    | —     |
| 4 The uniform my sister wears to school is awful. | —    | —     |
| 5 Have you ever been to the USA?                  | —    | —     |
| 6 The end of that film was really sad.            | —    | —     |

**b** **iChecker** Listen and check. Then listen and repeat the sentences.

**5 LISTENING**



**a** **iChecker** Listen to a radio programme about an English king with a stammer. Choose the correct answer.

- 1 The king with the stammer was...
  - a George V.
  - b Edward VIII.
  - c George VI.
- 2 The man who helped him overcome his stammer was...
  - a his wife's therapist.
  - b an actor.
  - c his father's doctor.
- 3 The King had to give his most important speech...
  - a at the end of the British Empire Exhibition.
  - b when his brother abdicated as King.
  - c at the beginning of an international conflict.

**b** Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 What was the King's name when he was a child?
- 2 What did his father make him do?
- 3 Who was unkind to him when he was little?
- 4 In which year did he make his first disastrous speech?
- 5 How did his father's doctors try to treat him?
- 6 Where did his new therapist treat him?
- 7 How long was it before the treatment showed results?
- 8 Why did his brother abdicate?
- 9 Who was with the King when he made his important speech?
- 10 What did the therapist say after the speech that was unusual?

**c** Listen again with the audio script on p.77 and try to guess the meaning of any words that you don't know. Then check in your dictionary.

**USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES**

**Learn these words and phrases.**

- apartheid /ə'pɑ:tait/  
 battle /'bætl/  
 go on (to the end) /gəʊ ɒn/  
 hunger strike /'hʌŋgə streɪk/  
 invasion /ɪn'veɪʒn/  
 make a speech /meɪk ə spi:tʃ/  
 quote /kwəʊt/  
 sacred /'seɪkrɪd/  
 sacrifice /'sækrɪfaɪs/  
 surrender /sə'rendə/

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