**A, An or The?**

When do we say "**the** dog" and when do we say "**a** dog"? (On this page we talk only about singular, countable nouns.)

**The** and **a/an** are called "articles". We divide them into "definite" and "indefinite" like this:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Articles | |
| **Definite** | **Indefinite** |
| the | a, an |

We use "definite" to mean sure, certain. "Definite" is particular.

We use "indefinite" to mean not sure, not certain. "Indefinite" is general.

When we are talking about one thing in particular, we use **the**. When we are talking about one thing in general, we use **a** or **an**.

Think of the sky at night. In the sky we see 1 moon and millions of stars. So normally we would say:

* I saw **the** moon last night.
* I saw **a** star last night.

Look at these examples:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **the** | **a, an** |
| * **The** capital of France is Paris. * I have found **the** book that I lost. * Have you cleaned **the** car? * There are six eggs in **the** fridge. * Please switch off **the** TV when you finish. | * I was born in **a** town. * John had **an** omelette for lunch. * James Bond ordered **a** drink. * We want to buy **an** umbrella. * Have you got **a** pen? |

Of course, often we can use **the** or **a/an** for the same word. It depends on the situation, not the word. Look at these examples:

* We want to buy **an** umbrella. (Any umbrella, not a particular umbrella.)
* Where is **the** umbrella? (We already have an umbrella. We are looking for our umbrella, a particular umbrella.)

**The Definite Article : The**

**1- قبل الاسم الوحيد من نوعه :**

**The** sun **– the** moon **– the** sky **– the** earth **– the** Equator **– The** universe

**2- الاسم المذكور للمرة الثانية في سياق الكلام :**

She baked a cake . **The** cake was very delicious.

He bought a flat. **The** flat is big.

**3- قبل الارقام الترتيبية**

**The** first **– the** second **– the** third **– the** last

**4- قبل أسماء الجبال و الانهار و البحار و المحيطات**

**The** Alps **– The** Red Sea **– The** River Nile **– The** Atlantic **– The** Pacific

**5- قبل اسماء أماكن اللهو و الترفيه و أسماء الأماكن الشهيرة ( أسماء العلم )**

**The** cinema **– The** theatre **– The** disco

**The** stadium **– the** mosque **– the** university **– the** airport **– the** hospital

**6- قبل الصفات التي تعبر عن فئة من الناس أو الاشياء**

**The poor – the rich – the blind – the deaf**

**7- قبل الصفات في حالة المفاضلة superlative**

**The tallest – the longest – the most expensive – the most beautiful**

**8- قبل اسماء الدول و الالقاب**

**The** king **– The** queen **– The** president

**The** K.S.A **= The** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**9- قبل اسماء الكتب المقدسة**

**The** Holy Qur'an **– The** Bible **–**

**10- قبل اسماء الجهات الاصلية**

**the** north **– the** south **– the** east **– the** west

**11- قبل الاسم اذا عبرعن الفئة بشكل** عام

**The** desert – **the** town – **the** country side -

**12- الاسم اذا ذكر للتحديد**

**The** dog is in front of **the** door.

**13- اسماء أجزاء اليوم الأساسية**

**the** morning – **the** afternoon – **the** evening

**متى لا نستخدم كلمة the**

**1- الاسماء بصفة عامة و اسماء المواد الخام :**

math – medicine – gold – silver – iron

**2- أسماء الوجبات**

breakfast – lunch – dinner – supper

**3- قبل الاسماء غير الرسمية للدول والمدن و القارات**

Saudi Arabia – Egypt – Iraq – Sudan – America

4- **قبل المواد الدراسية و اللغات**

Arabic – English – French - maths – chemistry – physics – religion – history – science

**5- قبل الانشطة الرياضية و الاسماء الغير محسوسة :**

Football – basketball – tennis – beauty – freedom- love

**6- قبل فصول السنة و المواصلات المسبوقة بكلمة by**

Summer – winter – autumn – spring

by car – by bus – by plane – by ship

**7- قبل اللقب المتبوع باسم صاحبه :**

King Faisal – President Push – Professor Zuail

**Second year .. second term ..**