

# LESSON 118

---

## 640 Using nouns in the general sense

## article

In the sentence "Dogs hate cats", we are not speaking about specific dogs or cats. We mean dogs generally and cats generally.

When we use nouns in the general sense, we put them in the plural and we do not put an article ("a", "an" or "the") in front of them. For example, "Schools educate children" or "Machines help people do jobs". If a noun does not have a plural form, we simply use it on its own, also without an article. For example, "Bread is commonly eaten with butter" or "Blood is red".

When we use nouns in the general sense, what do we do with them?

When we ..., we put them in the plural

and we do not put an article in front of them

Give me an example, please.

People go to  
cinemas to watch films

What do we do if a noun doesn't have a plural form?

If a noun ...,  
we simply use it on its  
own, also without an article

Give me an example, please.

Paper comes from wood

Is it correct to say "The water is necessary for the life"?

No, it isn't ...

What must we say instead?

We must say  
"Water is necessary for life" instead

## 641 Definite article

## Indefinite article

The articles in English are "the", "a" and "an". We call the word "the" the definite article, and we call the words "a" and "an" the indefinite articles. We use "a" before a word that starts with a consonant sound, whereas we use "an" before a word that starts with a vowel sound.

What are the articles in English?

The articles in English are "the", "a" and "an"

What do we call the word "the"?

We call the word "the" the definite article

What do we call the words "a" and "an"?

We call the words "a" and "an" the indefinite articles

What's the difference between "a" and "an"?

The difference .. we use "a" ... consonant sound, whereas we use "an" ... vowel sound

Give me some examples, please.

a book, a university, an apple, an hour etc.

**Use of the indefinite articles: "a" and "an"**

**countable**

**uncountable**

The indefinite articles "a" and "an" mean the same as "one", and we use them with singular countable nouns. For example, we say "a chair", "an apple" etc. We do not use them with uncountable nouns like "bread", "water" etc.

When do we use the indefinite articles "a" and "an"?

We use the indefinite articles "a" and "an" with singular countable nouns

642 Give me some examples, please.

a table, an address etc

Sometimes, we use the word "one" instead of the indefinite article, but only when we need to emphasize the number. For example, "I have two sisters but only one brother", or "There's just one problem with your idea of going to the cinema; we have no money". If we do not need to emphasize the number, we use the indefinite article. For example, "I went to a really good restaurant last night", or "He is an artist".

When do we use the word "one" instead of the indefinite article?

We use .. when we want to emphasize the number

Give me a sentence with the word "one", please.

I like one song on that CD but all the others are really boring

**worm****silkworm****silk**

What kind of worms are there?

There are earthworms, silkworms, woodworms etc.

What kind of things are often made of silk?

Ties, scarves etc. are often ...

**limb**

How many limbs do humans have?

Humans have four limbs

**poison**

If you discovered rats in your house, would you consider using poison to kill them?

Yes, if I ..., I'd consider ...  
~ No, if I ..., I wouldn't consider ...

643 **cave**

**bat**

Would you be willing to spend a night alone in a cave full of bats?

Yes, I'd be ... ~ No, I wouldn't be ...

**deserve**

Do you think some people deserve more of the good things in life than others?

Yes, I think some people ...  
~ No, I don't think some people ...

Why or why not?

Is there anything you think you deserve but have never received?

Yes, there is something I think I ...  
~ No, there isn't anything I think I ...

What? Why?

**frequent** (verb)

**frequent** (adjective)

**frequently** (adverb)

The word "frequent" is a verb, whereas the word "frequent" is an adjective.

What's the difference between the words "frequent" and "frequent"?

The difference ... is that ...

Do you frequent any clubs?

Yes, I frequent ...

~ No, I don't frequent ...

Do you pay frequent visits to your doctor?

Yes, I pay frequent ...

~ No, I don't pay frequent ...

How frequently do you visit your dentist?

I visit my

dentist about ...

644 **attract**

**attraction**

**attractive**

**attention**

**good-looking**

What's the best way to attract people's attention in the street?

The best way ... is to  
shout loudly to them and wave

What are the main attractions of the place where you live?

The main attractions ...

Tell me the name of a famous person who you think is attractive even though they are not particularly beautiful or good looking.

A famous person ... is ...

**the rest**

Do you think most people these days are too busy with their own lives to care about the rest of the people in the world?

Yes, I think most  
people ... ~ No, I don't think most people ...

**miserable**

What kind of things make you feel miserable?

The kind  
of things that ... are ...

Which do you think's the most miserable place on earth?

I think ...  
is the most ...

Why?

645 What do we mean by "miserable weather"?

By "miserable weather"  
we mean cold and rainy weather

## emotion

## emotional

Name some different emotions, please.

Some different emotions are happiness, sadness, surprise, anger etc.

Do you ever get very emotional when you watch a sad film?

Yes, I sometimes ... – No, I never ...

### Idiom 19

look before you leap = think carefully before you make a big decision

e.g. You should always look before you leap when buying a house.

What does the idiom "look before you leap" mean?

The idiom ...  
"think carefully ..."

Give me an example, please.

Look before you leap;  
it will be too late after it's done



#### Dictation 78

His member of parliament/ did everything in his power/ to save the man,/ but all to no purpose./ Smoking is not allowed in this building./ She tied her hair back/ so she could see better./ With the verb "to tell",/ we indicate the person/ that we are speaking to./ He told me/ everything that had happened/ during his holiday./ "To rock" can mean/ to move backwards and forwards.



#### Do Revision Exercise 52