1. **Introduction**
2. **Review of English grammar**

There are two articles in English: the definite and the indefinite. Sometimes nouns require no article at all; in which case the term zero (Ø) article is used.

1. **The indefinite article**

We used **a\an** in the following ways:

* Before singular countable nouns which we know nothing about.

E.g. My father works in **a** factory.

* With the names of professions and occupations.

E.g. She is **an** executive, and he is **a** waiter.

* In expressions of measurements.

E.g. We hired this tractor for DZD 3,000 **an** hour.

Olive oil costs DZD 300.00 **a** liter this year.

* Before a noun which means all things of the same kind.

E.g. A detective is **a** man\woman whose job consists in investigating crimes.

**A** friend in need is **a** friend indeed.

Remark: written **an** before vowel sounds, written **a** in other cases.

1. **The definite article**

We use the in the following ways:

* When it is clear from the context what particular person, animal, thing or place we’re talking about.

E.g. I’ll meet you in front of **the** post office.

* Before a noun that we have mentioned before.

E.g. He had a villa and a yacht, but he sold **the** villa a month ago.

* Before adjectives to specify a category of people or things.

E.g. **the** rich, **the** poor, **the** unemployed, **the** Welsh, **the** World Wide Web.

* When the object or group of objects is the only one that exists or has existed

E.g. **the** stars, **the** sun, **the** pyramids, **the** human race.

* When we talk about an institution shared by the people as a whole.

E.g. **the** radio, **the** television, **the** telephone.

* When we refer to what is general or typical for a whole class of objects or animals

E.g. **the** tiger is a beautiful animal. (we mean here all tigers).

1. **Zero article (Ø)**

* We do not put an article before uncountable (or mass) nouns used in general statements.

E.g. (Ø) Money is the root of all (Ø) evil.

* There is no article before abstractions (abstract nouns).

E.g. all nations should work for (Ø) peace, (Ø) honesty and (Ø) generosity.

* There is no article before names of places and people.

E.g. (Ø) Poland, Queen Elizabeth, Houari Boumediene Airport.

* We do not normally use the with the names of meals.

E.g. what time is (Ø) lunch?

* There is no definite article before prison, school, hospital, university when these institutions are used for purpose for which they exist.

E.g. when I leave (Ø) school, I’ll go to university.

* But when these institutions are not used for the purpose for which they exist we use the definite article.

E.g. Mr. Chaib went to the school to meet his daughter’s teacher.

* There is zero article before plural nouns.

E.g. we’re expecting visitors.