

6.1 articles

GR6.1

- There's **a concert** in Hyde Park at the weekend.
- The minimum wage has gone up by around one pound **an hour**.
- Did you see **the full moon** last night? It was spectacular.
- The quickest way** is to go by car; the bus takes ages.
- I walked up to **the Parthenon**. The view over **Athens** was breathtaking.
- The price of **food** has risen dramatically in the last year.

Indefinite article (a/an)

We use *a/an* when we don't specify which exact thing is being talked about, for example when something is one member of a class or one of many. This is often when you first mention something.

I saw **an** amazing film last night.

Have you got **a** dictionary app on your phone?

a or an?

You use *a* or *an* depending on the pronunciation of the sound which follows. We use *a* before a consonant sound and we use *an* before a vowel sound.

a car **a** house **a** euro **a** university
an apple **an** egg **an** hour **an** umbrella

Definite article (the)

- We use *the* when both the speaker and listener (or writer and reader) know the specific thing being talked about. For example, when it's clear which one we're talking about (often because it has previously been mentioned) or when it is the only one of something.

How was **the** concert last night?

Shall I open **the** window? (There is only one window in the room.)

The sun is hot today.

- We also use *the* with:

- superlative forms.

Notting Hill **is the biggest** carnival in the UK.

- rivers, valleys, deserts, mountain ranges, oceans, seas, groups of islands and plural country names.

How long is **the Amazon**?

We flew over **the Sahara Desert**.

- the names of theatres, cinemas, hotels, galleries and museums.

Have you been to **the Guggenheim Museum**?

No article

We use no article in a number of ways. These include:

- to refer to something in a general sense (with plural or uncountable nouns).

My daughter's always listening to **music**.

- with most country names, continents, states, lakes and mountains.

Have you ever been to **Australia**?

- with towns/cities, neighbourhoods and streets.

Have you been to **Paris**?

1 Do we use the following with *the* or – (no article)?

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 _____ Asia | 10 _____ Times Square |
| 2 _____ Lake Superior | 11 _____ Manhattan |
| 3 _____ Himalayas | 12 _____ Nile |
| 4 _____ Globe Theatre | 13 _____ Dorchester hotel |
| 5 _____ Fifth Avenue | 14 _____ Caspian Sea |
| 6 _____ Bahamas | 15 _____ California |
| 7 _____ Mount Fuji | 16 _____ Gobi Desert |
| 8 _____ British Museum | 17 _____ Germany |
| 9 _____ Delhi | 18 _____ Netherlands |

2 Complete the conversations using *a/an, the* or – (no article).

- A** How do ¹_____ prices generally compare between ²_____ UK and ³_____ USA?

B I'd say ⁴_____ USA is generally cheaper, certainly for ⁵_____ everyday things like ⁶_____ clothes and ⁷_____ food.
- A** I think ⁸_____ cars should be banned in ⁹_____ city centres.

B I agree. ¹⁰_____ roads where I live are always chaotic, and ¹¹_____ air is full of ¹²_____ pollution. They should provide ¹³_____ free car parks outside the city and ¹⁴_____ free buses to get in. I think they do that in a lot of ¹⁵_____ cities.
- A** I need to send ¹⁶_____ email, but I don't seem to be able to get ¹⁷_____ signal.

B There's ¹⁸_____ café with Wi-fi just down ¹⁹_____ road if it's urgent.

A Oh yes, I remember seeing it. It's next to ²⁰_____ bank, isn't it?

B That's right. It's got ²¹_____ red-and-white sign outside.

A OK, can we go there? Do they serve ²²_____ food?

B Yes, they do.

A OK, we can maybe have ²³_____ lunch there.
- A** I hear you're having ²⁴_____ party. Is it ²⁵_____ special occasion?

B Well, sort of. It's to celebrate ²⁶_____ end of ²⁷_____ exams.

A Is ²⁸_____ party at your house?

B No, it's at ²⁹_____ Zodiac Club. I've hired ³⁰_____ room.

A Great! Can I bring ³¹_____ friend?

B Of course you can bring ³²_____ friend. But only one or two.

A Will there be ³³_____ band playing?

B Yes. I've hired ³⁴_____ band that played at Jen's party.

6.2 Determiners and quantifiers

GR6.2)))

- 1 **Far too many people** drive to work every day. It causes terrible pollution in our cities.
- 2 Are you sure there are **enough chairs** for everyone?
- 3 **Few people** learn Latin at school these days. It's such a pity.
- 4 **All students** must register before Tuesday.
- 5 Although they trained in Glasgow, **both doctors** now have practices in Edinburgh.

Determiners are words that come before a noun or noun phrase.

much, many, some, any, a few, etc.

- We use (too) *many*, (a) *few*, *several*, *a number of* and *hundreds/thousands of* with countable nouns.
There are several multiple-occupancy houses on my road.
- We use (too) *much*, (a) *little*, *a great deal of* and *a large quantity of* with uncountable nouns.
Did you do much sightseeing in Paris?
A little, but it was mainly work.
- We can use *a lot of*, *lots of*, *some*, *any* and *enough* with countable and uncountable nouns.
There are a lot of cafés in the area.

Note that *few* and *little* (without *a*) emphasize less than expected or hoped for (**Few people passed the exam**). *A few* and *a little* are more neutral (**A few people passed the exam**).

All, each and every

We use *all*, *every*, and *each* to talk about more than two things. We can, however, sometimes use *each* to talk about just two things (e.g. **Each side of the coin is different**).

- *All* is used with plural nouns. You can use *all the/all (of) the ...*
All visitors must report to reception.
All (of) the apartments have been sold.
- *Every* and *each* are used with singular nouns. You cannot use *each/every/the ...*
Every apartment has been sold.

Both, either and neither

We use *both*, *either* and *neither* to talk about two people or things (e.g. **Both David and Andrew speak French**).

- *Both* is used with plural nouns. Before a determiner (e.g. *the*, *my*, *these*) we can use *both* or *both of*. When we use a pronoun (e.g. *them*, *us*, *you*), we must use *both of*.
Both of them speak French. NOT ~~Both them speak French.~~
- *Either* and *neither* are used with a singular noun. We use *either ... or* and *neither ... nor* when there are two nouns. When we use a plural pronoun or a plural noun with a determiner such as *the*, *my*, or *these*, we use *either/neither of*.
I don't like either house.
Neither David nor Andrew speaks German.
I don't like either of the houses. NOT ~~I don't like either the houses.~~

- 1 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 A I think *all / every / each* cars should be banned in city centres.
B I agree. In fact, cars should be banned in *all / every / many* part of the city, not just the centre.
- 2 A You should print on *every / each / both* side of the paper – think of the environment.
B True, but I can't be bothered to put the paper back in the printer *every / both / all* time.
- 3 A Have you done *all / many / much* your homework?
B Almost, but I haven't quite finished *all / much / many* of it.
- 4 A Would you like a drink? Tea? Coffee?
B *Either / Both / Any* tea *and / or / nor* coffee. I don't mind.
- 5 A Are you from the USA or Canada?
B I'm from *either / neither / any*. I'm British, actually. But *either / all / both* my parents are American, so I've got their accent.
- 6 A I hear it was 2–2 in the game last night.
B Yes, it was a good game. *Both / either / all* teams played really well. There were lots of chances and *both / either / any* team could have won.
- 7 A Would you like *some / a few / several* coffee?
B Yes, thanks. With just *a few / a little / some* milk if you have some.
- 8 A Did you know *either / much / many* people at the party on Saturday?
B Just *a little / a few / either* people from work.

- 2 Complete the brochure extracts with the words in the box.

all (x2) both each (x2) either a few

Offering a sense of community yet affording you total privacy, the new Riverside apartments are truly luxurious and set in peaceful and private surroundings. ¹_____ the apartments are finished to the same high standard and include state-of-the-art appliances. At the same time, ²_____ apartment has its own unique colour scheme and style of furnishings. You can choose an apartment with a river view or a view of the parkland behind. ³_____ of the apartments have ⁴_____ these views. You can choose ⁵_____ a one-bedroom or two-bedroom option and, whichever you choose, ⁶_____ bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms. ⁷_____ apartment also has a dedicated parking spot.