

5.1 Articles

GR5.1

- 1 He works for **an** American company.
- 2 We waited for **an** hour, but he didn't come.
- 3 A I bought **a** tablet and **a** smartphone yesterday.
B Was **the** tablet expensive?
- 4 Neil Armstrong walked on **the** moon in 1969.
- 5 Could you open **the** window, please?
- 6 Museums are more interesting than art galleries.

- We use *a/an* with singular countable nouns to talk about a person or thing for the first time. We use *an* if the next word (the noun or its adjective) has a vowel sound.

We bought **a** new sofa yesterday.
I need **an** old bicycle.

A few nouns start with the vowels 'e' and 'u' but have the consonant sound /j/ so we use *a*, not *an*, before them. Also, some nouns have a silent 'h' and so we put *an* before them:

The bus only costs a euro.
NOT ~~The bus only costs an euro.~~

- We use *the* before a noun (singular or plural) when the listener or reader knows what we are talking about. This can be because:
 - a we have talked about the thing(s) before.
*Grandma gave me her rings and watch. **The** watch is gold; **the** rings are silver.*
 - b there is only one of the thing.
*We put our new clock in **the** living room. (There is only one living room.)*
 - c what we are talking about is obvious.
***The** twins love their new toys. (There is only one pair of twins in the family.)*
- There is no article when you talk about plural and uncountable nouns in general.
***Knives** are dangerous.*
*I love old **furniture**.*

We don't often begin sentences with *a/an* when we describe present situations. Use *there is/was*.

There's a camera on the table.
NOT ~~A camera is on the table.~~

1 Complete the sentences with *a* or *an*.

- 1 There's a piano in the dining room.
- 2 I found _____ pair of earrings on the ground.
- 3 Do you have _____ map of London I could borrow?
- 4 Don't forget to take _____ umbrella in case it rains.
- 5 They need _____ adaptor for their phone.
- 6 American cars are too big. I'd prefer _____ European one.
- 7 Using a smartphone is _____ useful way to help you learn English.
- 8 There's _____ opera house in the city centre.

2 Complete the sentences with *the* or *-*.

- 1 The glasses that you bought look good.
- 2 I think _____ information is always useful.
- 3 _____ garden next door is beautiful.
- 4 Who gave you _____ money for your birthday?
- 5 We saw some nice houses, but I can't remember _____ addresses.
- 6 I don't like _____ olives.
- 7 I went to _____ dentist today.
- 8 Apparently, _____ tap water in the hotel isn't clean.

3 Complete the article about the Lewis Chessmen with *a/an*, *the* or *-*.

In 1831 on the island of Lewis, ¹ a man called Malcolm Macleod from ² _____ town of Pennydonald in Scotland found ³ _____ old box of pieces for playing ⁴ _____ game of chess on ⁵ _____ empty beach near ⁶ _____ town. Some say his cow found ⁷ _____ box! ⁸ _____ pale, red and white figures of kings, soldiers and horses are large and very beautiful. ⁹ _____ Norwegian artist probably made them in around 1150 because at that time, ¹⁰ _____ island was part of Norway. He used ¹¹ _____ teeth of ¹² _____ whales and painted half of them red. You can see ¹³ _____ Lewis Chessmen in ¹⁴ _____ museums in Edinburgh and London.

5.2 Quantifiers

GR5.2)))

- 1 I need **some** money to pay my bills.
- 2 Do you have **any** Chinese coins in your collection?
- 3 There are **a few** receipts in my wallet.
- 4 I don't carry **too much** cash with me.
- 5 Do you have **enough** change for the bus?

- We use quantifiers before nouns to talk about how much of something there is.
- We use *some* and *any* before countable or uncountable nouns when we don't want to be specific about quantities. We usually use *some* in positive sentences and *any* in negative sentences and questions.

Some bills have arrived. I haven't got **any** time.
Have you got **any** money?

- We use *some* for offers and requests.
Would you like **some** pocket money? Could I have **some** coins?
- We use *a lot of* or *lots of* when we want to describe a large amount; we use *a few* and *a little* when we want to describe a small amount.

	Countable nouns	Uncountable
Small quantity	There are a few banks in the town.	I have a little money in my wallet.
Large quantity	We've got a lot of bank notes.	He's got a lot of money.

- We use *many* before plural nouns and *much* before uncountable nouns usually in questions and negative sentences.
Are there **many** people in the queue? Yes, and we haven't got **much** time.
- We use *too much* or *too many* when we want to say the quantity is larger than we want or need. There is often a negative consequence. We use *too many* before countable nouns and *too much* before uncountable nouns.
There are **too many** shops here – we can't go to them all. I did **too much** shopping yesterday – I haven't got any money now.
- We use *enough* when we want to say 'all that is necessary'.
Have you got **enough** chairs for everyone?

We put the quantifier before the noun.

I haven't got enough time.

NOT I haven't got time enough.

1 Complete the sentences with *some* or *any*.

- 1 Have you got any coins?
- 2 They don't want _____ help from us.
- 3 Do you have _____ euros in your wallet?
- 4 Would you like _____ coffee? It isn't expensive.
- 5 I need _____ time to relax.
- 6 We don't have _____ expensive clothes.

2 Complete the phrases with *a few/a little* or *a lot of*.

- 1 £12 billion = a lot of money
- 2 3 x 2 cents = _____ coins
- 3 -£15 = _____ debt
- 4 £10 m in cash = _____ bank notes
- 5 2013–2015 = _____ years
- 6 14 hours on a plane = _____ time

3 Complete the sentence with *too much/too many* or *not enough* and the verb in brackets.

- 1 I don't have enough (have) money to go out tonight.
- 2 I _____ (keep) cash in my house. It's safer in a bank.
- 3 There _____ (be) people on the bus. It's really crowded!
- 4 Lee thinks his boss _____ (get) money!
- 5 There _____ (be) jobs for everyone, so there is a lot of unemployment.

4 Read the interview with Ms Shaw, a money expert, about borrowing money. Circle the correct quantifier.

Interviewer	1 <i>Enough</i> / <u><i>A lot of</i></u> / <i>A few</i> of us, millions in fact, are now getting into debt. Why is this happening?
Ms Shaw	Well, people don't earn 2 <i>too much</i> / <i>a little</i> / <i>enough</i> money. They can't afford to pay the bills.
Interviewer	But most banks don't give 3 <i>any</i> / <i>some</i> / <i>a little</i> money to poor customers, so how do they get into debt?
Ms Shaw	That's true, but there are now 4 <i>some</i> / <i>a lot of</i> / <i>enough</i> companies on the internet – over a hundred – that are happy to give poorer workers 5 <i>a little</i> / <i>much</i> / <i>too much</i> cash each month.
Interviewer	How 6 <i>many</i> / <i>much</i> / <i>lots of</i> money are the companies giving them?
Ms Shaw	Not much, but it's an expensive way of borrowing and 7 <i>lots</i> / <i>a few</i> / <i>enough</i> people can't pay it back because they owe 8 <i>some</i> / <i>too much</i> / <i>a little</i> money. The companies soon start sending 9 <i>some</i> / <i>a few</i> / <i>much</i> very large bills.