

LBRIS

We know
books



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Before you start

- 1 Read the guidebook page. Look at the highlighted grammar examples.

PLACES TO VISIT



This is the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. It has one of Europe's greatest art collections. The Hermitage was built in the eighteenth century; but in those days it wasn't an art gallery, it was a royal palace. The palace was used by the Tsars until the revolution of 1917. The building is now an enormous museum which contains art from many different countries, but mainly from Italy and France.

Lots of information is available from the website:
www.hermitagemuseum.org

For phone numbers and opening times turn to page 106.

- 2 Now read the sentences and choose the correct words in *italics*. The highlighted grammar examples will help you.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1 Most museums encourage <i>familys</i> / <i>families</i> to visit them. | ➤ Unit 1 |
| 2 Did you visit any interesting museums in <i>asia</i> / <i>Asia</i> ? | ➤ Unit 1 |
| 3 'The tourist office gave me lots of advice.' 'Really? <i>Was it</i> / <i>Were they</i> useful?' | ➤ Unit 1 |
| 4 Which kind of <i>art</i> / <i>the art</i> do you prefer – paintings or sculpture? | ➤ Unit 2 |
| 5 We bought a sculpture and a painting from that gallery. <i>A</i> / <i>The</i> painting is in our living room. | ➤ Unit 2 |
| 6 It's <i>a beautiful</i> / <i>beautiful</i> picture. | ➤ Unit 3 |
| 7 There's a new exhibition at <i>National Gallery</i> / <i>the National Gallery</i> . | ➤ Unit 4 |
| 8 The picture was painted in <i>sixteenth</i> / <i>the sixteenth</i> century. | ➤ Unit 4 |
| 9 The best paintings are in <i>room</i> / <i>the room</i> 18. | ➤ Unit 4 |
| 10 In <i>those</i> / <i>these</i> days the royal family lived in the palace. | ➤ Unit 5 |

- 3 Check your answers below. Then go to the unit for more information and practice.

1 families 2 Asia 3 Was it 4 art 5 The 6 a beautiful 7 the National Gallery 8 the sixteenth 9 room 10 those



Tourists enjoy **shopping** at the **British Museum**. There are lots of **postcards** and **books** for sale.

1 Types of noun

Nouns are the words we use for

- people, things and places: *a tourist, a postcard, a museum*
- activities, ideas and feelings: *shopping, information, love*

When nouns are names of people, places, dates, events, languages, religions and books, plays or films, they begin with a **capital letter**: *Professor Grey, the British Museum, Glasgow, Africa, Monday, April, May Day, Russian, Spanish, Islam, 'The Lord of the Rings', 'War and Peace', 'Avatar'*

Compound nouns, e.g. *bookshop, washing machine* ► Unit 98.1

2 Singular and plural nouns

Most nouns have a **singular** and **plural** form. To make plural forms

- add **-s** to most nouns: *books, postcards, days, houses*
- add **-es** to nouns ending in **-s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -o, -x** and **-z**: *buses, dishes, watches, potatoes, boxes* (BUT *videos, pianos*)
- for nouns ending in **consonant + -y**: *country → countries*
- for most nouns ending in **-f** or **-fe**: *life → lives thief → thieves*

Spelling rules ► page 350

A few plural forms are **irregular**, and some nouns do not change:

SINGULAR	<i>man</i>	<i>woman</i>	<i>child</i>	<i>person</i>	<i>foot</i>	<i>tooth</i>
PLURAL	<i>men</i>	<i>women</i>	<i>children</i>	<i>people</i>	<i>feet</i>	<i>teeth</i>
SINGULAR AND PLURAL	<i>aircraft</i>	<i>series</i>	<i>fish</i>	<i>sheep</i>		

Pronunciation ► 1.02

3 Noun + verb

Some nouns end in **-s** but are singular, so we use a singular **verb**:

athletics economics gymnastics politics maths physics news

Athletics is an Olympic sport. Today's news isn't very exciting.

Some nouns describe things with two parts, so they are plural:

jeans pants pyjamas shorts tights trousers glasses scissors

These jeans are too tight. My glasses are broken.

To talk about one or more of these things we can use *pair(s) of*:

I need a pair of trousers and three pairs of shorts.

Some nouns (e.g. *company, family, government, team*) describe groups of people. We use a singular OR plural verb when we are talking about the people in the group: *The Spanish team **is/are** playing brilliantly.* (all the Spanish players)

But we only use the singular verb when we are talking about the group as one thing: ~~✗ A football team **have** eleven players.~~ ✓ *A football team **has** eleven players.*

British and American English ► page 352

! The group noun *police* is ALWAYS plural:

~~✗ The police **has** arrested the thieves.~~ ✓ *The police **have** arrested the thieves.*

4 Countable and uncountable nouns

Countable nouns are things we can count:

How many museums are there in Paris? There are 10,000 paintings in the Louvre.

Uncountable nouns are things we can't count.

- food and drink: *bread, butter, meat, tea, coffee, milk, oil, pasta, salt, rice*
- materials: *water, oil, air, oxygen, metal, cotton, wood, plastic, paper*
- school subjects and languages: *geography, art, music, English, Spanish*
- ideas and feelings: *education, work, advice, beauty, love, knowledge, fun*
- activities: *shopping, cycling, swimming*
- groups of similar things: *furniture, luggage, money*

COUNTABLE NOUNS	UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS
have a singular and a plural form: <i>one shop → two shops</i>	don't normally have a plural form: <i>petrol → ✗ two petrols ✓ some petrol</i>
We use a singular or plural verb: <i>That painting is beautiful.</i> <i>Those paintings were expensive.</i>	We only use a singular verb: <i>Swimming is a popular sport.</i> <i>That petrol was expensive.</i>
We use <i>a/an, the</i> or <i>this/that</i> before a singular noun: <i>Is there a museum here?</i> <i>Where's the museum?</i> <i>This museum is enormous!</i>	We don't use <i>a/an</i> before an uncountable noun. We can use <i>some</i> or <i>this/that</i> : ✗ This table is made of a plastic. ✓ <i>This table is made of plastic.</i> ✗ Can you give me an advice? ✓ <i>Can you give me some advice?</i> <i>This rice isn't cooked!</i>
We use words like <i>some, the, these/those</i> before a plural noun: <i>I'd like some apples, please.</i> <i>Those books look interesting.</i>	

5 Nouns that can be countable or uncountable

COUNTABLE MEANING	UNCOUNTABLE MEANING
<i>We keep six chickens in our garden.</i> (animals)	<i>Do you like chicken and rice?</i> (food)
<i>A coffee and two teas, please.</i> (cups of tea)	<i>Sam prefers lemon tea.</i> (drink)
<i>Did you get a paper today?</i> (a newspaper)	<i>I need some writing paper.</i> (material)
<i>Those were easy exercises.</i> (tasks)	<i>Do you do much exercise?</i> (physical activity)
<i>I had some interesting experiences on holiday.</i> (things that happened to me)	<i>Experience is more important than qualifications.</i> (learning by doing something)
<i>The gallery has two works by Goya.</i> (paintings)	<i>My work is really interesting.</i> (job)

6 Ways of counting uncountable nouns

We use different expressions to 'count' some uncountable nouns.

- units: *a bar of soap, a bit of information/fun, an item of news, a loaf of bread, a piece of furniture/luggage/paper, a sheet of paper, a slice of bread/cake/meat*
- containers: *a bottle of water, a can/tin of soup, a carton of milk, a cup of coffee, a glass of orange juice, a jar of jam, a packet of sugar, a tub of butter/margarine, a tube of toothpaste*
- measurements: *half a kilo of meat, a litre of petrol, two metres of silk*

B

You are invited to a reception at the *British* museum at 7.30 p.m. on *friday*, 20th *april*.
 There will be a talk by professor *ernest brand*, author of 'tribal *Art*', to introduce our new
 exhibition of art from *new guinea*.
 Drinks will be served.

Please reply to Ms *helena summers* on 02243 77689 before 28th *march*.

2 Write the plural form of the nouns.

car child country family house life loaf person potato series sheep watch

+ -s	+ -es	+ -ies	+ -ves	no change	irregular
		<i>countries</i>			

3 Choose the correct words in *italics*.  2.02 Listen and check.

- 0 I can't read his writing. I think I need new *glass* / *glasses*.
- 1 How often do you brush your *tooth* / *teeth* ?
- 2 I think physics *is* / *are* the most difficult subject at college.
- 3 How many *aircrafts* / *aircraft* does British Airways own?
- 4 *Was* / *Were* the news interesting yesterday?
- 5 The police *is* / *are* trying to find the missing girl.
- 6 There are three *women* / *womans* and two men in the new medical team.
- 7 I like your new jeans. *Was it* / *Were they* expensive?
- 8 Do you have *a pair of* / *a* scissors in your kitchen?
- 9 Some farms in New Zealand have a million *sheep* / *sheeps*.
- 10 Our neighbours have six *childs* / *children*.

4 Match sentences 1 and 2 with A and B in each pair.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 0 1 I'd like some tea. | A And could I have two coffees, please? |
| 2 I'd like a tea. | B Could I have two packets of sugar, too? |
| 1 1 Can you get me some paper? | A I want to write a letter. |
| 2 Can you get me a paper? | B I want something to read. |
| 2 1 Do you have any chicken? | A There isn't any on the menu. |
| 2 Do you have any chickens? | B Or do you have only cows on your farm? |
| 3 1 You should try a skiing holiday. | A It will give you lots of experience. |
| 2 You should take that job. | B You will have a great experience. |
| 4 1 I need to do some exercise. | A I want to improve my grammar. |
| 2 I need to do some exercises. | B I want to get fit. |
| 5 1 I don't have a lot of work today. | A I'm not busy. |
| 2 I don't have many of his works. | B I'm not very keen on his books. |

Subject Here in London

Hi Clara

I got to London two days ago. (0) arrived on time and I came into town on the Underground. My (1) heavy, so I didn't need to take a taxi. The hotel is OK. The furniture (2) a bit cheap, it's all made of (3); but the room is clean.

You know I love history and (4) Well, yesterday I went to the British Museum – it was amazing! I loved the Egyptian stone statues. They are huge and the stone (5) a beautiful red colour. The museum is fantastic! There's no charge to get in, so you don't need to spend a lot of (6) There's a nice café there and I had some coffee and two (7)

Now I need (8) from you about my camera ...

- 0 A Flight B Some flight C The flight
 1 A luggages weren't B luggage wasn't C luggages weren't
 2 A is B are C were
 3 A plastic B a plastic C the plastic
 4 A an archaeology B archaeology C the archaeology
 5 A are B were C is
 6 A money B moneys C the money
 7 A sandwiches B sandwichies C sandwiches
 8 A an advice B some advice C advices

6 Complete the descriptions with the words from the box.

a bar a bottle a can ~~a carton~~ a jar a packet a piece a slice a tub



0 a carton of milk



1 of soup



2 of water



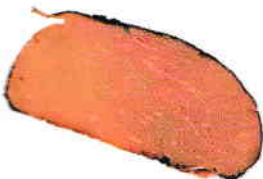
3 of soap



4 of jam



5 of furniture



6 of meat



7 of butter



8 of rice

2 Articles *a/an, the*, no article



1 a or an? the /ə/ or the /i:/?

A, an and *the* are **articles**. We use *a* before consonant sounds (*b, d, k, t, s*, etc.):
a café, a tourist, a museum

- AND before *u* or *eu* when they sound like /j/ (as in *you*): **a uniform, a European city**

We use *an* before **vowel** sounds (*a, e, i, o, u*): **an interesting book, an unusual job**

- AND before words that begin with a silent *h*: **an hour** /ən aʊə/

We pronounce *the* with /ə/ before consonant sounds: **the book, the tourist**

Before vowel sounds we pronounce *the* with /i:/: **the art gallery, the English teacher**

Pronunciation ▶ 1.03

2 General or particular meaning?

We use *a/an* or no article when we are talking about things in general:

<i>a/an</i> + SINGULAR NOUN	no article + PLURAL NOUN	no article + UNCOUNTABLE NOUN
<i>Is there a café here?</i> (any kind of café)	<i>Sandwiches aren't expensive.</i> (sandwiches in general, all sandwiches)	<i>I don't like music.</i> (music in general, all music)

We use *the* to talk about something particular:

<i>the</i> + SINGULAR NOUN	<i>the</i> + PLURAL NOUN	<i>the</i> + UNCOUNTABLE NOUN
<i>Yes, the café's on the ground floor.</i> (there is only one café here)	<i>Did you get the sandwiches?</i> (we know which sandwiches)	<i>I don't like the music on that CD.</i> (only the music on the CD, not music in general)

We don't use *the* when we are talking about things in general:

~~*Is there the cash machine near here?*~~ ✓ *Is there a cash machine near here?*

~~*I prefer the films to the books.*~~ ✓ *I prefer films to books.*

3 New information or known information?

We use *a/an* or no article when we mention something for the first time.

We use *the* when we mention it again:


I've just bought a new suit. It's the grey suit we saw in the shop window last week.

'Carla asked her teacher for advice.' 'Really? Was the advice useful?'

'Have they filled in entry forms?' 'Yes, I've got the forms here.'






We use *the* when the listener knows which particular person or thing the speaker is talking about:

It was a great holiday. Have you seen the photos yet? (the photos of the holiday)

1 Complete the sentences with *a* or *an*.  2.04 Listen and check.

- 0 My teacher went to an American university. It's quite a famous one, I think.
 1 Excuse me, Dr Taylor. There's urgent message for you. It's from patient.
 2 There's bus stop on the corner. But you'll have to wait hour for the next bus.
 3 She's got young son. He has unusual name.
 4 My parents have elderly friend who owns small cottage by the sea.
 5 Detectives don't wear uniform. But they always carry badge.
 6 We can find you European holiday at excellent price.

2 Complete the notices with *a*, *an*, *the* or *-* (no article).

<p>0</p>  <p>Please do not smoke in <u>the</u> room.</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>We do not accept credit cards for items under £10.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>If you have complaint, please contact reception.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>WE REGRET THAT OFFICE IS CLOSED UNTIL 2.00 PM.</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>There is life-jacket under the seat in front of you.</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>Do not bring food into this area.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Please note there are extra pillows in the cupboard.</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Visitors may park in car park at the back of the hotel.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Please do not take hotel towels to swimming pool.</p>	

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Find nine more mistakes in the conversation and correct them.

 2.05 Listen and check.

- JENNY Hello, Karl. How are ~~the~~ things? Have you found ^a job yet?
 KARL Hi, Jenny. Yes, I have.
 JENNY Great! Is a job near here?
 KARL Yes. It's at a hotel in a city centre.
 JENNY That's very convenient. Which hotel is it?
 KARL It's hotel opposite bus station: The Regent.
 JENNY Oh, yes. I know it. By the way, how is Maria?
 KARL She's OK now, but she's been quite sick. She had operation last month.
 JENNY Oh dear. Was an operation serious?
 KARL No, don't worry – nothing serious. She's better now.
 JENNY I'm glad to hear it – the health is so important, isn't it?
 KARL Yes. It was shock when she became ill.
 JENNY I can imagine. Has she got the good doctor?
 KARL Yes. The doctor's very helpful.

Michelle's **a student** at **art school**. She's in the museum copying **a beautiful painting**.



1 Jobs and descriptions

We use *a/an* with the names of jobs:

Michelle's **a student**.

I want to be **an engineer**.

We also use *a/an* to describe a person or thing, usually with an adjective:

She's copying **a beautiful painting**.

He's **a nice person**.

That was **an interesting exhibition**.

2 Institutions: purpose or building?

institution school college university prison hospital

When we think of the purpose of these institutions we don't use *the*. But when we think of the building, we use *the* or *a/an*.

PURPOSE	BUILDING
Michelle is a student at art school .	The art school is in North Street.
My brother's sick in hospital .	Excuse me, where's the hospital ?
The murderer was sent to prison .	The prison has stone walls.

3 The media

We use *the* with the names of most newspapers, but most magazines have no article:

newspapers the Daily News the Sun the New York Times

most magazines Vogue Newsweek Time Hello

'Did you see her photo in **Vogue**?' 'No, it was in **the Sun**.'

We say *the cinema*, *the theatre* and *the radio*. We don't normally use *the* with *television* or *TV* when we are talking about the programmes:

In the mornings I like listening to **the radio** but in the evenings I prefer watching **TV**.

But we use *a* or *the* if we are talking about the machine:

There's something wrong with **the television** in my bedroom.

4 *the* + adjective for groups and nationalities

the young the old the elderly the rich the poor the sick the homeless
the disabled the unemployed the blind the deaf the injured the dead

Some adjectives can be used as nouns if they describe a particular group, e.g. all the people who are rich = *the rich*. We use a plural verb:

The rich are getting richer and **the poor** are getting poorer.

We can use nationality adjectives that end in *-ch/-sh/-ese* in the same way, e.g. *French*, *Spanish*, *Dutch*, *Japanese* (► Unit 95.2):

The French have elected a new president. (all the French people)

The Irish are voting on the new European Union tomorrow. (all the Irish people)

⚠ We can't use other nationality words in this way:

✗ ~~The Brazilian are used to hot weather.~~ ✓ **Brazilians** are used to hot weather.

Practice

We know

GRAMMAR IN USE There are ten more places in the letter where *a* or *an* is missing.Write *a* or *an* in the correct places. 2.06 Listen and check.

I come from ¹close family. I've got two sisters and a brother. Emily's the eldest sister. She's dentist and she's lovely person. Caroline is student. She's studying French at university. She isn't good student; she prefers to spend her time enjoying herself! My brother has got interesting job, he's architect. He designed beautiful new house for my uncle. I live with my parents in old house in small village. It's quiet place so I'm glad I've got lots of friends on the Internet!

2 Match the sentences 1-7 with the questions A-H.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 0 Derek's at university. | → A Is he on holiday? |
| 1 Mr Rogers is going to the school. | → B Is he studying to be a doctor? |
| 2 My brother is in hospital. | C Is he the famous murderer? |
| 3 Ali visited the university. | D Did he see the new physics building? |
| 4 James isn't at school today. | E Is he going to see the school play? |
| 5 He's working at the hospital. | F Is he visiting a prisoner? |
| 6 Derek Sutcliffe is in prison. | G Is he a doctor? |
| 7 Karl's going to the prison today. | H Is he having an operation? |

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the information with *the* or - (no article).

2.07 Listen and check.

PRINT MEDIA FACTSHEET

- The most widely read English language newspaper in the world is *USA Today*. The most popular magazine is (0) *AARP Magazine*. It is an American magazine for (1) elderly.
- (2) Japanese are the world's most enthusiastic newspaper readers. *Yomiuri Shimbun* sells more than 14 million copies every day.
- The most popular daily newspaper in Britain is (3) *Sun*, which sells over 3 million copies.
- One of the most unusual magazines is *The Big Issue*, which is sold by (4) homeless on the streets of London and other towns in the UK.
- (5) *Variety* is an international magazine that specialises in news about (6) cinema.
- In many countries magazines that give information about (7) television are very popular. Americans buy several million copies of (8) *TV Guide* each week.