

ARTICLES – a, an, the,

a, an are used with singular count nouns :

a – before consonant sound (*a uniform, a big house*) /pred spoluhláskou vo výslovnosti/

an- before vowel sound (*an apple, an honour, an expensive house*) /pred samohláskou vo výslovnosti/

- 1) when you mention something for the first time
- 2) when you talk about one of many (*a bus, a student, a role*)
- 3) with professions (*a nurse, an editor, a manager, a director*)
- 4) after „as“ (*as an assistant, as a volunteer*)
- 5) in exclamations /zvolaniach/ starting with What + a countable noun (*What a surprise! What a great film!*)
- 6) with numerals /číslovky/: a hundred, a million, a thousand, when you mean one hundred, one million, one thousand
- 7) expressions of quantity (*a pair of, a little, a couple, a few, a bit, a lot of*)
- 8) expressions of frequency (*once a week, twice a term, three times a day*)

the is used

- 1) when you mention something for the second time
(*A boy was walking down the street. Suddenly he met an elephant. The elephant was enormous.*)
- 2) when it is obvious/known which thing or person we are talking about (the pictures):
(*Can I speak to the manager?* = the manager of this shop)
(*Your food is in the kitchen.* = you know which kitchen)
(*The baby is crying.* = we can see the baby in this picture)
- 3) when the person or thing is unique = there is only one
(*the Queen, the President, the moon, the sun, the Slovak National Theatre*)
- 4) before superlative adjectives = 3.stupeň prid. mien a prísloviak
(*the best programme, the worst experience*)
- 5) before geographical places that are plural
(*the Netherlands, the United States, the High Tatras, the Alps*)
- 6) before deserts, seas, rivers, oceans, newspapers, most buildings – hotels, pubs, theatres, museums, cinemas
- 7) before ordinals – *the first, the tenth*
- 8) common expressions, e.g. *the same, the right, the left, the top, the coast, the south, the west/east/north, the whole(=all the) day/world/class/family*
- 9) parts of the day: *in the morning/ afternoon*
the names or places which include words such as: *kingdom, republic, sultanate* (The Slovak Republic, The United Kingdom, The People's Republic of China, The U.S.A.)
- 10) very big parts of the world, e.g. *the Far East*

no article when we talk about things in general – when we are not being specific

(*I like rice. BUT: I like the rice you cook. Girls talk about fashion. Boys talk about PC games.*)

- 1) before names, days, months, holidays, festivals, special days, meals and mealtimes
- 2) countries, mountains, towns/villages, streets, languages
- 3) some places: **to, in, out of**: *bed, church, hospital, prison*; **to, at, from**: *college, school, work*
- 4) forms of transport: *by car, by train, by bus, on foot, by plane*
- 5) with the names of buildings which include the words school, univeristy, college, castle, palace, airport, station, e.g. *London University, Frankfurt Airport*
- 6) in exclamations with WHAT + an uncount noun
(*What beautiful weather! What loud music!*)