

Use of Articles in English

We know which article to use because of the **type of noun** and the **context** – general or specific:

singular countable nouns	> general / not known / first mention > specific / known / later mention	> begin with a consonant sound book > use a > begin with a vowel sound apple > use an > use the	<i>For example:</i> I read a book yesterday. I ate an apple yesterday. The book was great. The apple was delicious.
plural nouns books <i>and</i> uncountable nouns - concrete bread - abstract music	> general / unknown / first mention > specific / known / later mention	> zero article > use the	I love reading books. They eat bread every day. Music is important to me. I love the books you gave me. They ate the fresh bread you bought. The music of Bach is wonderful.
proper nouns Italy	>	zero article	My brother lives in Italy.