

Grammar Articles

Correct Use of an Article in English – or Not? (Instructions)

These instructions are for use with the following worksheets:

Correct Use of an Article in English – or Not? (Game Cards – p.38)
Correct Use of an Article in English – or Not? (Handout – p.39)

1. SS (students) work in pairs or small groups. T (teacher) gives out sets of game cards. SS have to read the sentences and divide the cards into two groups: correct or incorrect sentences.
2. Feedback. SS give their answers. If they have a wrong answer, T elicits the correct answer.
3. SS put the cards into five groups – by noun type – as in the handout. SS discuss the context of each correct sentence – general or specific, writing G for general and S for specific on the cards.
4. T elicits the rules for each type of noun, e.g. we do not use an article if the noun is plural or uncountable and the context is general.
5. You could talk about why non-specific sentences with 'the' are considered incorrect in this activity, e.g. 'I like the apples'. While grammatically correct, this sentence is meaningless without context, e.g. 'I like the apples from our garden', or unless both people involved know *which* apples, e.g. two people are eating an apple and blackberry pie:

'Mmm! I like the apples.' (as distinct from the blackberries)
 'They're from our garden.'
6. T gives out the handout as a record of the answers and to reinforce learning.
7. Using the table below, SS write their own sentences with articles: a) choose a noun, b) write its type, c) write a sentence with each article or determiner, d) note when the sentence will be incorrect, and consider why, e) write the context (G or S) for each correct sentence.
8. SS could cut up and swap their sentences with another pair or group. Each pair or group has to complete the type, contexts, and write whether the sentences are correct or not. SS share feedback.

For example:

Noun: *chair*

Type: *singular countable noun*

		Correct?	Context:
[a]	I bought a chair.	✓	G
[an]	I bought an chair.	✗	
[the]	I bought the chair.	✗	
[the]	I bought the brown chair.	✓	S
[zero]	I bought chair.	✗	
[some]	I bought some chair.	✗	
[o/d]	I bought that chair.	✓	S



Noun: _____ Type: _____

		Correct?	Context:
[a]	_____	_____	_____
[an]	_____	_____	_____
[the]	_____	_____	_____
[the]	_____	_____	_____
[zero]	_____	_____	_____
[some]	_____	_____	_____
[o/d]	_____	_____	_____