ARTICLES- To Use or Not To Use, That is the Question!

Nouns play an important role in determining when to use and article and when not to. Nouns are divided into count and non-count. A count noun is one that can be pluralized and a non-count cannot, for example:

Nouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>chair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>chairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Count</td>
<td>air</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ø plural

Articles:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definite</th>
<th>The</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indefinite</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rules to remember:

1). When using a **singular count noun**, it **MUST** always be modified by something, i.e., articles, possessives, demonstratives.

   Examples: The job  My job  That job

2). **Generalizations** are not preceded by an article, for example,

   - **Hurricanes** are a natural phenomenon occurring in the Atlantic in the summer months.

3). When making a specific reference, plural count nouns are preceded by an article.

   - **The hurricanes** that made landfall in Florida in 2004 caused great damage.

4. When you first refer to something, an **indefinite article** should be used. However, when you refer to it thereafter, the **definite article** needs to be used.

   - While strolling down the sandy beaches of Miami, Tracy met a girl who was vacationing from Osaka, Japan. At first, the girl was shy and somewhat unfriendly. Tracy later realized that the girl could barely speak English.
5. Abstractions are not modified unless the reference is being made about something specific.

-Education should be the same for everyone.
-The education he received was the best.

Practice what you have learned. Write the appropriate article in the blank spaces. If no article is needed, write this symbol: Ø

1. On Thursday, ________ airplane did what ________ taxi turned boat couldn’t. 2. ________ airplane brought to the U.S. ________ couple that tried to enter the U.S.

3. The instructor wrote ________ rules on ________ board for ________ students to copy.

4. ________ developer wants to buy ________ building downtown, but ________ owner doesn’t want to sell ________ building.

5. ________ Rules/rules were made at ________ meeting conducted to determine how much money would be collected to repair ________ swimming pool.

6. We believe that there’s ________ better way to do this.

7. Ending ________ dispute between ________ family members was all ________ Governor wanted.

8. ________ Expressway Authority has decided to raise toll taxes.

9. Raising ________ level of instruction is what any good school wants.

10. Could you please go to ________ front and see if ________ door is open?

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