ENGLISH GRAMMAR: ARTICLES

An uncountable noun refers to a noun that cannot be counted or is difficult to count. Uncountable nouns describe liquids (water, milk), untouchable things (air, information) and things that are too numerous to count (sand, equipment). Since these nouns cannot be counted, they take only singular form. Since it is in singular form, the indefinite article a or an CANNOT be used to modify them. The can be used with uncountable nouns if it is referring to a specific object, group or idea.

Incorrect usage of an indefinite article with an uncountable noun:
- I enjoy the taste of a water.
- A should not be used to modify the uncountable noun, water.

Correct usage of an uncountable noun:
- I enjoy the taste of water.
- The equipment was difficult to use.
- Since equipment is a specific object, it is modified by the.

USING ARTICLES WITH PRONOUNS

Articles and pronouns are both used to modify a noun. Since they both have the same action, they should not be used together in a sentence. Pronouns are words such as he, my, I, we, our, it, her and their.

Incorrect usage of an article and pronoun:
- Why are you copying the my paper?
- The and my should not be used together.

Correct usage of an article or a pronoun:
- Why are you copying my paper?
- I bought the newspaper.

REFERENCES