

## 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

Grammarly (2013). Articles. Retrieved from <http://www.grammarly.com/handbook/grammar/articles/>

Purdue University (2011). Using articles. *Purdue Online Writing Lab*. Retrieved from <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/540/1/>