

# Definite article

Zero article

# Indefinite articles

Earth as a  
common noun  
(thing/place)

Earth as a  
proper noun  
(name of the  
planet)

Space in the  
universe

Space as an  
uncountable  
distance  
between two  
things

Space as a  
specific,  
previously  
mentioned or  
obvious distance  
between two  
things

School as a  
generic place

School as a  
specific,  
previously  
mentioned or  
obvious place

Prison as a  
prisoner who  
has committed  
a crime and is  
therefore in  
prison

Prison as a  
visitor to a  
random prison,  
with no  
particular  
reference to one  
prison

Prison as a  
visitor to a  
specific,  
previously  
mentioned or  
obvious prison



Hospital as a  
patient

Hospital as a  
visitor to a  
random, non-  
specific  
hospital

Hospital as a  
visitor to a  
specific,  
previously  
mentioned or  
obvious hospital

University as a  
student or  
teacher

University as a  
location you're  
visiting or  
passing  
through

Church as a  
place you  
attend for  
religious  
reasons

Church as a  
location that  
you're passing  
through

Bed as a place  
you're staying  
for a prolonged  
period of time

Bed as a piece  
of furniture or  
as a location

Plural groups  
as a specific,  
previously  
mentioned or  
obvious group

Plural groups  
as a non-  
specific random  
group used in  
general  
statements