



Comparing Articles Interactive Worksheet

In order to complete this worksheet, you should watch the series of grammar videos about comparing articles in English. You should complete this worksheet at the same time as watching the videos.

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Video: Earth

EXERCISE A: Briefly explain why we use the article in each of the situations in the table. Write your answer in column 3.

Earth	Definite Article	Common noun as a thing/place
	Zero Article	Name of the planet as a proper noun

EXERCISE B: Write “earth” correctly using either the definite article or zero article to complete the following sentences.

- 1) A black hole has been discovered very close to **Earth**.
- 2) What’s under the surface of **the earth**?
- 3) Asteroids pose a threat to life on **the earth**.
- 4) How can we protect **Earth** from meteors?
- 5) Do you know the age of **the earth**?



Video: Space

EXERCISE C: Briefly explain why we use the article in each of the situations in the table. Write your answer in column 3.

Space	Zero Article	1. Space in the universe 2. Uncountable distance between two things
	Definite Article	Specific, previously mentioned or obvious distance between two things

EXERCISE D: Write “space” correctly using either the definite article or zero article to complete the following sentences.

- 1) When I grow up, I’d love to be an astronaut and live in **space**.
- 2) Sorry, there’s no **space** in the restaurant, we’re full.
- 3) **The space** between you and me is about 2m.
- 4) There are still so many things for us to discover in **space**.
- 5) I tried to park my car but **the space** was too small!



Video: School

EXERCISE E: Briefly explain why we use the article in each of the situations in the table. Write your answer in column 3.

School	Zero Article	Generic noun, talking about the concept of school
	Definite Article	Specific, previously mentioned or obvious school

EXERCISE F: Write “school” correctly using either the definite article or zero article to complete the following sentences.

- 1) It's compulsory for children to go to **school**.
- 2) My children go to **the school** next door.
- 3) I hated **school** when I was younger
- 4) **School** is the place where you develop all your skills.
- 5) **The school** rang and we have to go and pick up Chloe immediately.

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Video: Prison/Jail

EXERCISE G: Briefly explain why we use the article in each of the situations in the table. Write your answer in column 3.

Prison/Jail	Zero Article	To be a prisoner who has committed a crime and therefore is in prison
	Indefinite Article	To be a visitor at any random prison, with no particular reference to one prison
	Definite Article	To be a visitor at one specific, previously mentioned or obvious prison

EXERCISE H: Write “prison” correctly using either the definite article, indefinite article or zero article to complete the following sentences.

- 1) I work at **the prison** in town.
 - 2) He was sent to **prison** for robbery.
 - 3) I would love to see the inside of **a prison** to see what it’s like.
 - 4) I think she’s in **prison** for murder.
 - 5) What was the visit to **the prison** like today?
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Video: Hospital

EXERCISE I: Briefly explain why we use the article in each of the situations in the table. Write your answer in column 3.

Hospital	Zero Article	You’re in the hospital because you’re a patient and ill
	Indefinite Article	You’re visiting a random, non-specific hospital
	Definite Article	You’re visiting a specific, previously mentioned or obvious hospital

EXERCISE J: Write “hospital” correctly using either the definite article, indefinite article or zero article to complete the following sentences.

- 1) She was rushed into **hospital** after she collapsed at home.
- 2) Have you ever been to **a hospital**?
- 3) I work at **the hospital** as a doctor.
- 4) When was the last time you went to **hospital** as a patient?
- 5) **The hospital** in our city is very big.



Video: University/College

EXERCISE K: Briefly explain why we use the article in each of the situations in the table. Write your answer in column 3.

University/ College	Zero Article	You're a student or teacher who attends the university
	Definite Article	1. The university is a location and you're visiting it 2. The name of the university

EXERCISE L: Write "university" correctly using either the definite article or zero article to complete the following sentences.

- 1) Do you teach at university?
 - 2) I'm so excited to start university next year!
 - 3) I'll come and visit you at the university later.
 - 4) My dream is to go to university to study law.
 - 5) You should turn left at the university.
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Video: Church

EXERCISE M: Briefly explain why we use the article in each of the situations in the table. Write your answer in column 3.

University/ College	Zero Article	You're attending for religious reasons, attending a service
	Definite Article	The church is a location that you're passing by

EXERCISE N: Write “church” correctly using either the definite article or zero article to complete the following sentences.

- 1) Do you go to church?
 - 2) I was walking past the church and it was beautiful?
 - 3) They’re renovating the church at the moment.
 - 4) We should really go to church more often.
 - 5) I went to a beautiful mass at church yesterday.
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Video: Bed

EXERCISE O: Briefly explain why we use the article in each of the situations in the table. Write your answer in column 3.

Bed	Zero Article	Staying for a prolonged period of time e.g. sleeping, resting or ill in bed
	Definite Article	Piece of furniture or location

EXERCISE P: Write “bed” correctly using either the definite article or zero article to complete the following sentences.

- 1) Shall we have breakfast in bed this morning?
- 2) I’m so tired, I’m going back to bed.
- 3) She was hiding under the bed.
- 4) I love the bed that you’ve bought.
- 5) I’m going to bed now. Night!



Video: Plural Groups

EXERCISE Q: Briefly explain why we use the article in each of the situations in the table. Write your answer in column 3.

Plural Groups	Definite Article	A specific, previously mentioned or obvious group
	Zero Article	A non-specific group used for general statements

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Video: Titles

EXERCISE R: Fill in the gaps to complete the sentences below.

An alternative way of addressing people by their titles is by using the definite article, then the title with a lowercase letter.

- Dr Jones would be written as **the doctor**.
 - Reverend Owen would be written as **the reverend**.
 - President Carter would be written as **the president**.
 - Princess Kate would be written as **the princess**.
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Video: Using all the Articles

EXERCISE S: Explain the differences between these three sentences.

- I'd like to have a dog: A **non-specific, random dog**
- I'm allergic to dogs: **Plural noun used for general statements, no specific dog**
- The dog next door is cute: **Specific dog that is known**