

Lesson Plan:

When to use no article (zero article)

LEVEL	TIME	TOPIC
Intermediate (B1/B2)	60 minutes	Zero article in English

Objectives

Students will understand when *no article* is used before nouns and be able to apply the rule in conversation and writing.

1. Warm-up (10 minutes)

Activity: Quick Review: A, An, The

- Ask students to give examples of when we use a/an and the.
- Display sentences on the board (some with and some without articles).

Examples:

- "She is reading a book."
- "He goes to school every day."

Ask: Why is there no article in the second sentence?

2. Presentation: Zero article usage (15 minutes)

Explain key rules with examples:

No article is used with...

1. Plural, general nouns

"Dogs are friendly." (talking about dogs in general)

"Cars are expensive."

2. Uncountable nouns when general

"Water is essential."

"Music helps me relax."

3. Meals

"We have lunch at 1 PM."

NOT: "The lunch was at 1 PM." (unless specifying a particular lunch)

4. Languages & subjects

"She speaks French."

"He studies math."

5. Most places when used for their primary purpose

"He is in prison." (as a prisoner)

"She goes to school." (as a student)

6. Transport with 'by'

"I go to work by bus."

"He traveled by plane."

3. Practice (15 minutes)

Activity 1: Fill in the blanks

Give students a worksheet (or digital version) where they choose whether to use **a/an**, **the**, or **no article**.

Example:

1. Tigers are ___ dangerous animals.
2. I usually eat ___ dinner at 7 PM.
3. She goes to ___ university in London.
4. He goes to ___ school every weekday.
5. They listen to ___ music every night.

Activity 2: Pair Work – Error Correction

Give students a list of sentences, some with article errors. In pairs, they identify and correct mistakes.

4. Production (15 minutes)

Activity: Create your own sentences

- Each student writes 3 sentences where they intentionally use no article.
- Then, they exchange papers with a partner to check for accuracy.
- Volunteers read sentences aloud and explain their choice.

5. Wrap-up & Homework (5 minutes)

Recap:

Ask: "*When do we not use articles?*"

Write a few student examples on the board and reinforce rules.

Homework:

Write a short paragraph (5-6 sentences) about a daily routine using at least 3 examples of zero article.