

Lesson Plan: When to use no article (zero article)

Level: Intermediate (B1/B2)

Time: 60 minutes

Topic: 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).

Example:

- "*She is reading a book.*"
- "*He goes to school every day.*"
- Ask: Why is there no article in the second sentence?

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.