

ADVANCED ARTICLE USAGE

(11 IMPORTANT RULES Other than the rules given in 'Chemical Grammar')

Rule 1:

A (AN) can be used like the word "per".

Examples:

Apples currently cost \$1.30 a pound. Cheetahs can run 60 miles an hour. You want \$150 a person for the tour?

Rule 2:

Comparative forms, such as "bigger", "better", "more" can be used with both A(AN) and THE and follow general article usage.

Examples:

I like the bigger roller coaster.

He has a more expensive car than my car.

Rule 3:

English speakers often use THE plus a singular noun when they talk about or make generalizations about certain topics, including:

musical instruments (the piano, the guitar, the flute)
plants (the coconut palm, the saguaro, the baobab)
animals (the leopard, the elephant, the lowland gorilla)
inventions (the steam engine, the plane, the light bulb)
currencies (the dollar, the euro, the yen)
body parts (the head, the eye, the ear)

Examples:

I play the piano.

The sequoia tree is native to California.
The dolphin is a very intelligent animal.
The Wright brothers invented the airplane.
Right now, the euro is stronger than the dollar.
Cheryl got poked in the eye.

Rule 4:

Generally, articles are not used with the names of illnesses or diseases.

Examples:

Dr. Faraz visits schools and universities to educate students on AIDS.

Oncologists are doctors who specialize in treating cancer.

There are several medications that can be used to treat malaria.

HOWEVER: There are some illnesses which require THE.

the measles

the flu

the mumps

the bubonic plague

MOREOVER: There are a few health conditions or illnesses which can be used with both A(AN) as well as THE and follow general article use. This category includes most aches, pains, growths, and attacks.

a cold

a heart attack

a stroke

a wart / tumor / growth / etc.

a sore throat / sore back/ sore foot / etc.

a headache / toothache / backache / etc.

REMEMBER: This last category follows general article use. Study the examples below

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Examples:

John has a cold. The cold was pretty bad.

Nancy had a heart attack. The heart attack seriously weakened her heart.

Deb had a sore throat. The sore throat made it hard to talk.

Rule 5:

If a direction (north, west, southeast, left, right) directly follows a verb, do not use an article with the direction.

Examples:

We need to walk south. They drove north all day.

At the stop sign, turn left and walk three blocks.

HOWEVER: If a direction follows a preposition, you must use THE.

Examples:

We need to walk to the south. Our house is in the north.

The grocery store is on the right.

MOREOVER: Use THE with compass directions when referring to them as special geographic or cultural regions.

Examples:

We love the South.

Have you ever visited the East? The West has better national parks.

THE can be used with plural family names to refer to the family as a group.

Examples:

The Robinsons love to vacation in Florida. The Shinoharas are originally from Japan. My brother lives next door to the Jacksons.

Rule 7:

THE can be combined with certain adjectives to refer to a group of people such as "the blind", "the elderly", "the rich", "the French", "the Sioux", etc.

Examples:

He is elderly. (Adjective)

The organization helps the elderly. (Elderly people) The poor need our help. (The + Adj+ Plural Verb)

REMEMBER: This is especially important in situations where nationalities or ethnic groups and their languages might be confused. In such situations, THE is used to specify that we are talking about the nationality or ethnic group rather than the language. Examples:

I like **French**. (Language)

I like **the French**. (The French people)

The English love their country. (The + language + Plural Verb)

Pakistan win by two wickets. (Pakistan = Team members)

HOWEVER: When generalizing about nationalities or ethnic groups that end in "-ans", such as "Americans", "Mexicans", and "Hawaiians", THE is not used.

Examples:

Americans watch a lot of TV. Germans drink a lot of beer.

Rule 8:

Do not use THE with the names of most countries unless the name contains a word such as "States", "Kingdom", "Republic", "Emirates", "Union", "Coast", etc.

Examples:

I love Italy.

John used to live in Japan.

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He lives in the United States.

SIMILARLY: Don't use THE with states, provinces, and cities unless THE is specifically part of the name or contains a word such as "Territory" or "Coast".

Examples:

He lives in California. Ladakh is in Kashmir.

The Northwest Territories is a province in Canada.

EXCEPTIONS: THE is used with "the Netherlands" as well as with many nations which are island chains, such as "the Philippines", "the Maldives", "the Bahamas", etc. Additionally, in the past, THE was used with certain countries such as "the Sudan", "the Gambia", and "the Congo"; this usage is becoming less common.

Examples:

He lives in the Netherlands. I visited the Bahamas last year.

Rule 9:

Use THE with the names of:

Oceans

Seas

Coasts

Rivers

Swamps

Archipelagos

Collections of lakes (such as the Great Lakes)

Mountain chains

Deserts

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Geographic regions (such as the Northwest, the Middle East)

Bridges (except Tower Bridge)

Museums

the Sun, the Moon, the earth

extraordinary works of art or architecture (such as the Mona Lisa, the Colosseum, the Great Wall of China, and the Taj Mahal)

Examples:

Abdullah visited the Hermitage, a famous museum in St. Petersburg I would love to visit the North Pole.

Nina walked over the Rialto Bridge.

Rule 10:

Do not use an article with the names of:

Individual lakes, Individual islands

Beaches. Waterfalls

Individual mountains (except the Matterhorn)

Canyons (except the Grand Canyon)

People's first names

Streets (except the High Street), Public squares

Hospitals

Stadiums

Malls

Parks

Churches

Temples

Universities

Colleges

Languages

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Religions Days Months Holidays

Examples:

Have you ever visited Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris?

Kenta is Buddhist.

We went camping in King's Canyon.

HOWEVER: There are additional exceptions to some of the above categories. For example, THE is often used in the pattern "the ... of ...". Check the rule given on page 35 of Chemical Grammar Examples:

> The University of Colorado The Temple of Ranakpur The Cathedral of Siena

Rule 11:

Sometimes 'Time expressions' confuse us. THE is used in some time expressions such as:

in the morning in the afternoon in the evening during the night during the day the day before yesterday the day after tomorrow the fall

the summer

Examples:

We'll meet in the afternoon.

Ali loves to go camping in the fall.

There was a small earthquake during the night.

HOWEVER: In other time expressions, no article is used:

at night, at noon, at midnight, all day

all night all month every month every year last night last Friday vesterday tomorrow

Examples:

Did you sleep well last night?

I'll see you tomorrow.

We are meeting for lunch at noon.

MOREOVER: There are some expressions which can take both A (AN) and THE such as:

a/the whole day a/the whole month an/the entire year an/the entire decade

Examples:

He spent a whole month in Hawaii. I wish I could do that.

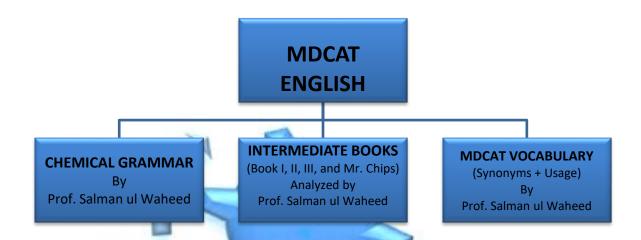
I took last Friday off to go to the doctor. I spent the whole day sitting in his

office.





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- 2. Past Papers Analysis and Guidelines by Salman ul Waheed
- 3. Document on Phrasal Verbs by Salman ul Waheed
- 4. Presentations on MDCAT Vocabulary by Salman ul Waheed
- 5. Book I, II, III, and Mr. Chips (Original)
- 6. Analysis of Intermediate Books by Salman ul Waheed
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