

ARTICLES A/AN - THE - ∅

Look at the following example from the text *What makes a good university in the 21st century?*

<p>Until recently ∅ students needed to weigh up four key criteria when looking for a good university: ∅ course quality, ∅ university reputation, ∅ location and ∅ accommodation costs.</p>	<p><i>Jusqu'à récemment, les étudiants devaient considérer quatre critères clé lorsqu'ils cherchaient une bonne université: la qualité des cours, la réputation de l'université, la situation géographique et les frais d'hébergement</i></p>
<p>However, ∅ fee rises and ∅ changing attitudes towards ∅ university have transformed ∅ students into ∅ more critical consumers of ∅ higher education.</p>	<p><i>Cependant, l'augmentation des frais et le changement d'attitude envers l'université ont transformé les étudiants en ∅ consommateurs plus critiques de l'enseignement supérieur</i></p>
<p>The good news is attitudes towards ∅ Clearing are also changing.</p>	<p><i>La bonne nouvelle est que l'attitude face au processus de sélection est aussi en train de changer.</i></p>
<p>The process now offers ∅ students with a valuable opportunity to think again and question whether they're on the right track</p>	<p><i>Le processus offre dorénavant aux étudiants une précieuse opportunité de revoir leur jugement et de se demander s'ils sont sur la bonne voie</i></p>

⇒ The problem French people encounter is that in **French**, there is **ALWAYS an article before a noun**, which is **not the case in English!** Actually, more often than not, you have no article.

⇒ Besides, the **same article in French** is not **always translated by the same article in English**, it depends on the context.

Step 3 - Articles a/an - the - ∅

	A/AN	THE	∅
	<p>a/an is used to talk about something that is not specific. a/an + noun refers to something/someone that is not known by the person you talk to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Before unspecified singular countable nouns (first occurrence) Sam works in an office. What else can you offer me besides a degree? A recent survey found that Make sure your potential university has an active campus ◆ With the name of professions Mr Smith is a lecturer and Mrs Taylor is a librarian. He works as an engineer ◆ In expressions of measurement and in fractions He has chemistry labs twice a week. A third of graduate vacancies are filled ◆ Before a noun to mean all things of the same type when looking for a good university ... A great scientist is a man or a woman who is able to see the potential of unexpected outcomes. 	<p>The is used to talk about a specific person, thing or one you already know. The + noun means that people know what you talk about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Either it is defined by <u>the context</u> e.g. a- They need to ask the question to universities: "What else can you offer me besides a degree?" b- You have the attitudes and aptitude needed to work for them. c- Take a look and see whether the universities that you are considering offer opportunities like these d- Germany (...) has the advantage of being an important business hub e- Ask at any university fairs you attend what about the opportunities they could offer you ◆ Or it is unique e.g. <i>the Internet, the sun, the world</i> 	<p>∅ is used to talk about something in general</p> <p>e.g. a- Students should ask themselves ∅ questions when applying to university.</p> <p>b- ∅ fee rises and ∅ changing attitudes towards university</p> <p>c- ∅ Universities like Nottingham, Loughborough and Lincoln have also been recognised for their relationships with start-ups</p>

Step 3 - Articles a/an - the - Ø

		<p>Proper nouns</p> <p>. names of geographical areas, rivers, mountain ranges, groups of islands, canals, and oceans The Arctic, the Thames, the Rocky Mountains</p> <p>. countries that have plural names or that include the words "republic", "kingdom", or "states" in their names The Netherlands, The USA, the United Kingdom</p> <p>. names of famous buildings, works of art, museums, or monuments The Eiffel Tower, the Globe</p>	<p>Proper nouns</p> <p>Proper nouns generally do not need any article: e.g. name of people or companies/firms According to research by Ø HSBC, Ø Germany is the least expensive study abroad destination and has the advantage of being an important business hub</p> <p>Ø Helen Alkin, head of future talent recruitment at Ø Marks & Spencer told me recently that they are looking for well-rounded candidates</p>
Plural or singular? Countable or uncountable?	<i>a/an</i> is always used with a <u>singular</u> noun.	<i>The</i> can be used with a <u>singular (countable or uncountable)</u> or a <u>plural (countable)</u> noun.	Ø can be used with a <u>singular (uncountable)</u> or a <u>plural (countable)</u> noun.

Source: Englisch Hilfen [Lesson "The"](#) - [Grammar exercises](#) + [Education First](#)