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No article – the so-called ‘**zero article**’ – is a term used for situations when a noun or a noun phrase in a sentence need not be preceded by a **definite** article (the) or **indefinite** article (a, an). This usually occurs with plural and uncountable nouns that have a **general meaning**.

- *I need **a** cup of coffee. – indefinite article*
- *I like **the** food they serve in this restaurant. – definite article*
- *Cats drink milk. – ZERO article*
- *I like comics. – ZERO article*

We can use the zero article (no article) in the following ways:

## Zero article with proper names

no article

Susan  
Obama  
Mr Smith  
Miss Marple  
Captain Cook  
Doctor Watson  
President Lincoln

via <https://ienglish.ru/articles/grammar/bez-artiklya>

We usually don't use articles with proper names:

## Names of people

- *Yesterday I saw Tim Smith.*
- *He is a fan of Michael Jackson.*

Note: We can still use 'the' to differentiate between two or more persons that might have the same names:

- *Was it **the** Tim Smith who visited our meeting last Friday or someone else?* (who visited our meeting determines the name Tim Smith)

Geographical names - cities, states, countries, etc.

no article

Europe  
Spain  
California  
Paris  
Wall Street  
Hyde Park  
Everest  
Cyprus  
Lake Ontario

via <https://ienglish.ru/articles/grammar/bez-artiklya>

We use zero article with the following geographical names:

## 1. Continents

- *There are 54 countries in Africa today.*
- *This mountain range is the highest in Europe.*

Note: The exceptions are *the Americas (North and South America), the Antarctic, the Arctic.*

## 2. Countries & cities

- *London is the capital of Great Britain.*
- *You'll see many beautiful sights all over Vienna.*

Note: Some places, specifically some countries, do have the definite article 'the' in front of them, i.e. *the United Kingdom (the UK), the USA (the United States of America), the Netherlands, the Hague, the Vatican.* See more in '[Article with Proper Nouns](#)'.

## 3. Lakes & mountain peaks

- *They live near Lake Michigan.*
- *Many people try to reach the top of Mount Everest.*

## 4. Streets & roads

- *Jill lives on Summerside Avenue.*
- *Meet me on Santa Monica Boulevard at 9:00.*

## Names of places and institutions



via <https://ienglish.ru/articles/grammar/bez-artiklya-part-2>

We use zero article with the names of public institutions, companies, shops, restaurants, etc.:

- *We agreed to meet near Victoria Station.*

- *Is Cambridge University the oldest in England?*

## Zero article with names

### Places



via <https://ienglish.ru/articles/grammar/bez-artiklya-part-2>

We use zero article to talk about places and institutions whose purpose is clear to everyone, including the phrases with '*home*', '*work*', '*bed*', etc.:



via <https://ienglish.ru/articles/grammar/bez-artiklya-part-2>

- *Children start school in September.*
- *It's time to go to bed, kids!*

We use zero article with names of days, months, seasons and holidays, certain parts of the day:

### Days, months, seasons

- *We usually meet on Monday.*
- *November is quite cold.*
- *They agreed to meet at noon.*

### Sports and disciplines

We use zero article with games and sports, academic subjects and disciplines:

- *He is good at tennis.*
- *I liked History at school.*

### Meals

We use zero article with names of meals:

- *I'll have fruit for lunch.*
- *Let's go out for dinner tonight.*

## Movement or transport

We use zero article with names of means of transport:

- *I'm leaving town tomorrow by car.*
- *I go to school by bus.*

## Languages

We use zero article with names of languages, but if the word '*language*' is present, we use '*the*':

- *Do you speak French?*
- *Nothing drives me harder than my passion for the English language.*

## Materials

We use zero article with names of materials:

- *Gold is found in Australia.*
- *They are mining for tin.*

## Zero article with 'noun + number'

We use zero article when a noun is preceded by a number:

- *He is in room 45.*
- *Please turn to page 67.*

## Zero article with plural nouns

We use zero article with plural nouns:

1. that are not specific

- *I see flowers in the vase.*
- *We have bananas in the kitchen.*

2. to talk about a class of things in general

- *Cheetahs run faster than any mammal. (the whole species in general, not particular cheetahs)*
- *Rivers always flow into seas and oceans.*

## Zero article with uncountable or abstract nouns

We use zero article with **abstract** nouns and **uncountable** nouns:

- *Do you like coffee?*
- *Lily needs money.*
- *Love is in the air.*
- *We seldom see courage like that.*

## Zero article with other determiners

We use zero article when there's a determiner before a noun or a noun phrase:

- *I need some information.*
- *My house is next to the bus stop. (NOT: ~~The my house is next to the bus stop.~~)*

Watch this video from Your English Web containing good explanation of uses of zero article:

Read more about articles:

[Articles with Proper Nouns](#)

[The Indefinite Article](#)

[The Definite Article](#)