

Basic Articles 1: Teacher's Notes

Target Structure:	Articles: Definite and Indefinite
Vocabulary:	General
Level:	Pre-Intermediate +
Time:	30 minutes+
Preparation:	None

Suggested Teaching Method

Articles are one of English language's most complex items. This handout is designed to introduce some basic rules and encourage conversation in which the items may be practiced.

- 1 Distribute one handout per student. Ask a student to read out both sentences and read them out yourself. Ask students to work in pairs to decide which comments listed are correct for sentence b.
- 2 This is a spot quiz! Do a show of hands in the class and explain the correct choice. Compare it with the sentences above again.
- 3 Students read the instructions and in pairs, try to complete the email and its response. Set a time limit for this.
- 4 Students should switch partners and try to complete the sentences, without writing anything (they can do this later, for confirmation, as required). The aim now is to try and naturalize their use of 'a' and 'the', not just repeat a dialogue. Encourage students to use different movies for discussion and continue conversation.
- 5 As students become more confident, move on to other areas of discussion for example using the suggested topics. You may want to complete activities by allowing two competent students to model a conversation with correct, natural use of articles at the beginning of a model conversation.

Possible answers (others may be appropriate)

- 1 a. The doctor said I had to rest. b. A doctor has to study at medical school.

	a.	b.
We know who the doctor is	✓	×
We are talking about all doctors	×	✓
We are only talking about one person	✓	×

- 2 a.

- 3 Hello! I have a problem with the printer in the upstairs office. It's the one next to the door. Could you take a look at it and email me back if it's a big problem? Thanks.

Hi there. I've been looking at the printer problem you emailed me about today. You need to re-install the printer and try printing again. You may also need a new cartridge for it soon.
Hope that helps.

- 4 A. I went to see a movie last week ...
B. Oh yeah, what did you see?
A. It was a love story called Cold Mountain
B. Isn't that the one with Nicole Kidman in?
A. Yes, it's set at the end of the American Civil War