**Noun phrases**

**Use**

**Articles in noun phrases**

**We use *a/an* + singular countable noun:**

* to say that a person or thing is one of many.

He's a bank manager. (There are lots of bank managers - he's one of them.)

* to refer to a person or thing for the first time.

There's a new mobile phone shop in town.

* to talk about a person or a thing in general.

l'm looking for a new job.

We use *an* with singular countable nouns which start with a vowel.

You will receive an email to confirm your purchase.

**We use *the* + singular countable noun, plural countable noun or uncountable noun:**

* to say there is only one of this thing.

He's the director of the new shopping and leisure centre. (There's only one director in the centre.)

* to refer back to the same thing or person for a second time.

Those are the shoes l wanted to buy.

* with certain countries, place names, geographical regions, oceans and seas, deserts, mountain ranges and rivers, for example: *the USA, the UK, the Philippines, the Eiffel Tower, the White House, the Middle East, the Antarctic, the Pacific, the Mediterranean, the Kalahari Desert, the Alps, the Himalayas, the Amazon, the Nile*.
* with superlative adjectives, for example *the biggest city, the newest shop, the most expensive phone.*
* when there is only one, for example: *the world, the weather*.

**We use *zero* *article* + plural countable noun and uncountable noun to refer in general** to people, animals or things.

l don't receive bank statements by post any more.

Online banking is very convenient.

Do you like cats?

**We do not use *the* with the names** of people, towns, countries, continents, lakes and mountains, languages, for example : *Christopher Columbus, New York, London, Australia, Poland, China, Africa, Europe, Lake Geneva, Mount Everest, English, Spanish, Japanese.*

**Determiners and possessives in noun phrases**

We use determiners and possessives in front of nouns to make the information about them more specific.

**We use *possessive* adjectives**: *my*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *its*, *our*, *their* + noun to express ownership and possession.

Where is my credit card?

This isn't your mobile phone.

**We use the determiners *each* and *every* with singular countable nouns** to refer to individual things.

They had to pay every bill before they moved out of the flat.

Every shop was full. I couldn't get to the sales.

They offered each customer a free sample.

**We use the determiner *all* with plural countable nouns** to refer to a group of things.

Discounts are available in all shops in the mall this week.

There are mortgage offers in all the banks at the moment.

All of the teams arrived at the same time.