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АКАДЕМІЯ ВНУТРІШНІХ ВІЙСЬК МВС УКРАЇНИ**

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**АКТУАЛЬНІ ПРОБЛЕМИ ВИКЛАДАННЯ ІНОЗЕМНОЇ МОВИ
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ЗАКЛАДАХ НА СУЧАСНОМУ ЕТАПІ**

**ЗБІРНИК ТЕЗ ДОПОВІДЕЙ
ІІІ МІЖНАРОДНОЇ НАУКОВО-ПРАКТИЧНОЇ КОНФЕРЕНЦІЇ**



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THE USAGE OF ARTICLES

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The usage of the definite and indefinite articles in English language is shown.

Key words: *use, articles, definite, indefinite, role, function.*

The process of translation from Russian into English usually offers specific difficulties. Even if you know the language very well it is sometimes difficult while translating the text to find the equivalents in the English language. One should change the words of the language, but leave the information unchanged. Lexical-grammatical structure of two languages are different, that leads to the word-to-word translation. Every word or word-combination can not be isolated, but it is interconnected with the other elements of the text.

The use of the English articles: definite or indefinite or the absence of the article in the sentence at all, brings difficulties to the translator, as there are no articles in the Russian language. If you do not know the specific peculiarities how to use the English articles (which is one of the most difficult themes of the English grammar) you will fail in making a correct translation.

We decided to give you some examples of how to use the articles while translating from Russian into English:

The article is a determiner whose basic role is to mark noun phrases as either definite or indefinite. Articles are distinguished from other determiners for two reasons. Firstly, they cannot form phrases on their own. Secondly, the distinction they mark is obligatory.

We usually use the to identify people or things when we think they are already known.

1. We use the when we assume that people are familiar with the same ordinary things as we are in our daily lives and in the physical world outside:

Ex. Please don't mention the sun, the sky, the earth, the weather or the environment today.

Where is the phone? I left it beside the radio on the table in the corner near the window.

2. We use the when we identify people by their jobs or the unique role in society. We also use the with professional organizations:

Ex. Will you wait for the plumber?- No, I won't. I can't. I have to go the the dentist. Ask the caretaker.

Ex. He's thinking about joining the police or the army. His brother works for the government.

Ex. Would you recognize the Pope, the Emperor of Japan, the Dalai Lama or the Queen?

3. We can use the when we want to talk about something as a general concept and we are not referring to a specific example. We do this with inventions and musical instruments and with people, things and animals in generalization.

Ex. The horse was a symbol of freedom to the Apache .The customer isn't always right. (=any customer)

Ex. What was life like before the computer? Can anyone here play the piano or the organ?

4. We use the when we identify things or parts of things, descriptive phrases after the noun, especially prepositional phrases with of and relative clauses. We also put the before superlative adjectives and emphasizing adjectives such as main or first.

Ex. The best part was being the first person to get in. That was the main reason for going early.

Ex. Can I see the book that you bought? The person who called yesterday said you owed him 20 pounds.

Ex. It's the middle of June already and I haven't finished painting the front of my house.

5 There are some cases where *the definite article* must always be used:

Ex. The environment (but you can say, for example, "the office is a stressful environment")

Ex. The atmosphere

Ex. Adverbial nouns: the undersigned, the accused, etc

Ex. The economy, where it means the national economy of a country.

6. We usually use zero article: before the names of particular people:

Ex. President Clinton is to make a statement every day.

Ex. The name of Nelson Mandela is known all over the world.

7. However we use the:

-When there are two people with the same name and we want to specify which one we are talking about:

Ex. *That is not the Jane Fraser I studied at the Institute with.*

-When we want to emphasize that a person is the one that everybody probably knows:

Ex. *Do they mean the Ronald Reagan, or someone else?*

-When it is used this way, the is stressed.

-With an adjective to describe a person or his job:

Ex. *The artist William Turner*

Ex. *The wonderful actor Harrison Ford*

Ex. The Aboriginal writer Sally Morgan

-When we talk about a family as a whole:

Ex. The Robinsons are away this week. (the Robinson's family)

8. We use a (an) to classify people or things when we mention them first. When we classify something, we are saying that it is a member of a category. We use a/an when we classify the kind of thing we're talking about or when we want to talk about any example of the kind of thing we are talking about.

Ex. What is that? It's a mouse. His first film was a comedy. (*not* his first film was comedy.)

Ex. Do you have a ruler? I am looking for a knife. (*not* I 'm looking for knife).

9. We use a/an when we classify people by the work they do or the kind of beliefs they have:

Ex. I am a socialist, not a communist. Isn't your friend Volta a vegetarian?

Ex. Shiela's an architect. Stanly talks like an engineer. I'm a student. (*not* I'm student).

10. We can use a/an when we classify things in definitions, in descriptions of particular features and with a proper noun or one example of the type of things mentioned:

Ex. That painting is a Picasso. Have you driven a Mercedes? Is your watch a Calvin Klein?

Ex. The professor had a small mouse and an enormous moustache.

Ex. Is a tomato a fruit or a vegetable? A dolphin isn't a fish, it's a mammal.

11. Notice that a (an), or sometimes zero article, is used with the name to mean that someone else has or does not have the particular excellent qualities of the person named:

Ex. Jane plays tennis well, she'll never be (*a*) *Steffi Graf*.

-We can also refer to a famous painting by a famous artist as, for example, "a Van Gogh"

12. We can use a (an) before a person's name if you don't know the person yourself. Compare:

Ex. There is a Dr Kenneth Perch on the phone. (= I haven't heard of him before) Do you want to talk to him?

Ex. Dr Perch is here for you. (= I know Dr Perch)

13. We use zero article when we talk about institutions such as hospital, university, prison, school, college or church being used for their intended purpose: medical treatment in hospital, studying in university and so on. We use articles when we talk about them as particular places or buildings.

-Notice that we talk about bed in the same way. Compare:

Ex. *She usually stays in bed till late at the weekend,* and

Ex. "Have you seen my socks?"-"You left them on the bed."

-When we talk about cinema, opera, theatre in general, or when we refer to a building where this type of entertainment takes place, we use the:

Ex. *I try to go to the cinema at least once a week.* (= *cinema in general*)

Ex. *We usually go to the cinema in New Street.* (*a specific cinema*)

-However, if we are talking about a form of art, we generally prefer zero article:

Ex. *Not any children enjoy opera.* (rather than... *enjoy the opera*)

14. Articles are generally not used in lists, tables, maps, plans, drawings or signature blocks, and are used more sparingly in informal notes, forms and section headings.

Ex. *Name of enterprise* (not "*name of the enterprise*")

Ex. *Full name of representative* (not "*full name of the representative*")

15. When an article is used, it is generally not repeated before subsequent nouns in a list or in brackets:

Ex. *The contract (agreement)*, not *The contract (the agreement)*

16. Articles are not important words. They are not usually underlined in the middle of the sentences or placed within inverted commas:

Ex. *The "Tax Code"*, not *"The Tax Code"*

17. When a noun is qualified by a number, there can be no article:

Ex. *Letter No.238*

Ex. *Article 55*

18. Cases where the definite article is always used except in lists, tables, headings, etc.:

Ex. *The Republic of Kazakhstan* (except if used as an adjective, as in *"Republic of Kazakhstan treasury bills"*)

Ex. *The Karaganda Region, The City of Alma-Ata*

19. Cases where zero article is always used:

Ex. *State property*

Ex. *Space (=cosmos)*

20. As Russian does not have articles at all, it makes more use of words such as *указанный, тот, такой*, etc. Often the use of the is enough to translate them:

Ex. *to reinstate the document that (восстановить тот документ, который)*

At the end of this report devoted to the correct use of the articles we would like to say that while translating any text into English one should pay attention to the correct use of any grammatical phenomenon (especially articles) in order to refer the main idea of the translated text more exactly and correctly.