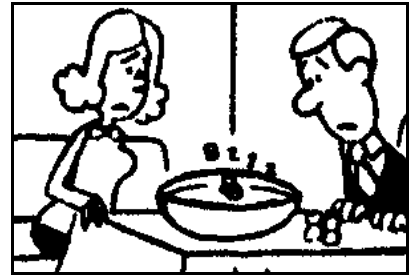




Indefinite & Definite Nouns: A/AN & THE

I am on a blind date with a woman from New York. She is a teacher in a preschool. She has a strong accent and uses baby talk. I can hardly understand her. She is interested in classical music, literature, languages, and education. My interests are jazz, sports, astronomy, and fast cars. She belongs to a liberal political group. I am a right-wing conservative.

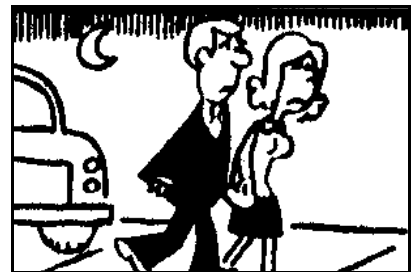
MY DATE WANTS CHINESE OR THAI FOOD, BUT I PREFER ITALIAN OR GREEK DISHES. WE FINALLY PICK AN AMERICAN RESTAURANT. I ORDER ROAST BEEF, RICE, BROCCOLI, AND A SMALL SALAD. THE ROAST BEEF IS OVERCOOKED, THE RICE IS BURNED, THE BROCCOLI IS TOO SALTY, AND THE SALAD IS WILTED. SHE HAS A BOWL OF SOUP, A TINY TOUGH STEAK, DRY MASHED POTATOES, AND GREEN BEANS. THE SOUP HAS A FLY IN IT, AND THERE IS A HAIR IN THE GREEN BEANS. THE SERVICE IS SLOW. THE WAITRESSES ARE RUDE. THE CUSTOMERS NEXT TO US ARE LOUD. THE CHECK IS UNBELIEVABLE. WHAT DO I DISCOVER THEN? I DON'T HAVE ANY CREDIT CARDS! SO I BORROW SOME CASH FROM MY DATE.



AFTER DINNER WE DECIDE TO GO TO A MOVIE. SHE LIKES LOVE STORIES, AND I PREFER ACTION FILMS, SO WE CHOOSE A COMEDY. I START TO PAY THE CASHIER AT THE MOVIE THEATER, BUT I DROP THE MONEY IN A PUDDLE OF WATER. THE CASHIER IS ANGRY ABOUT THE WET BILLS. INSIDE THE THEATER, THE WOMAN IN FRONT OF US HAS A LARGE HAIRDO. I CAN'T SEE THE SCREEN. BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER BECAUSE THE MOVIE ISN'T FUNNY. I FALL ASLEEP.



AFTER THE MOVIE, WE GO TO THE CAR AND FIND A PARKING TICKET ON THE WINDOW. THE GAS TANK IS EMPTY. WE LOOK FOR A TAXI, BUT THE CABS ARE ALL FULL. SO I WALK HER HOME. AT THE DOOR OF HER HOUSE, I SAY, "THANK YOU! WHAT A LOVELY DATE!"



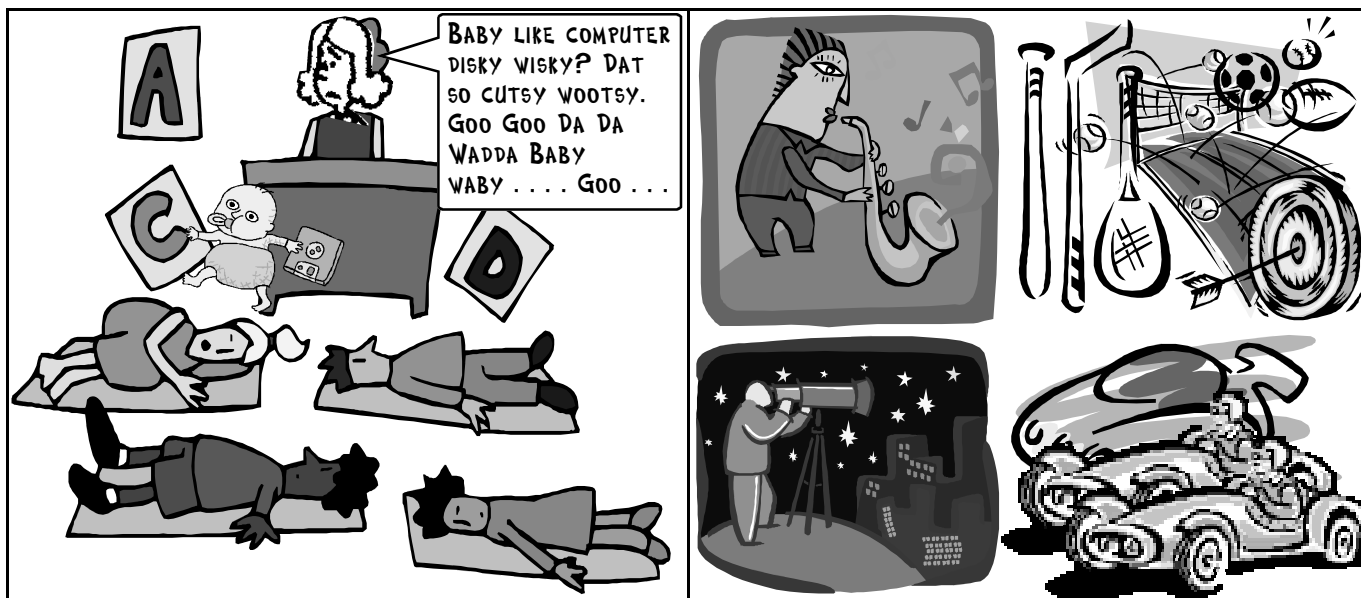
I START TO GIVE HER A KISS, BUT I TRIP ON THE DOORMAT. SO WE SHAKE HANDS. SHE OPENS THE FRONT DOOR. SHE GOES IN AND CLOSES IT ON MY FOOT. THE PAIN IS TERRIBLE. I RING THE DOORBELL. HER MOTHER ANSWERS THE DOOR. I WRAP A BANDAGE AROUND MY FOOT. THEN I LIMP HOME. IT IS A VERY LONG WALK.



14-A Answer these questions about the information in the *Scenario: What an Experience!* on page 177. In the spaces, put **Y** for YES or **N** for NO. ****You can tell reasons for your answers or give more information.**

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Does the man know the woman before their date? [<i>N</i>] | 6. Do they have any problems with money? [] |
| 2. Do the man and the woman have the same interests? [] | 7. Do they both enjoy the comedy at the movie theater? [] |
| 3. Are their political opinions similar? [] | 8. Does the man's car cause them any trouble? [] |
| 4. Do they agree on their food and restaurant preferences? [] | 9. Does the date have a happy ending at the woman's house? [] |
| 5. Are they satisfied with the food and service at the restaurant? [] | 10. Will they go out on another date? What's your opinion?* |

14-B Answer the questions with words and phrases from the *Scenario: What an Experience!* Write nouns and noun phrases on the lines. ****Add words of your own.**



1. What does the woman do for a living? How does she talk?

She's a teacher in _____.
 She has _____.
 She uses _____.

2. What are the man's interests?

He's interested in _____,
 _____,
 _____, and
 _____.

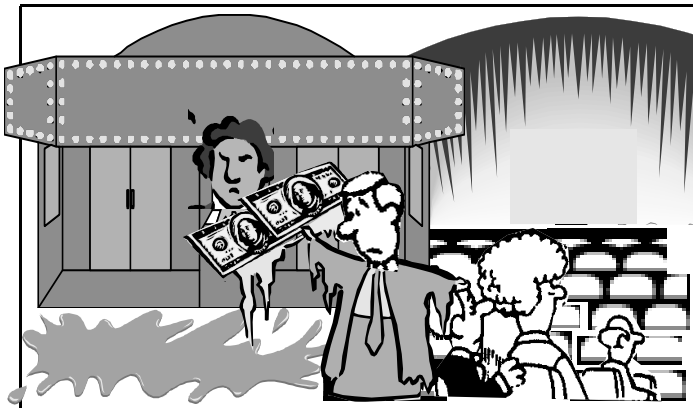


3. How is the restaurant bad?

The food is terrible, _____
 is slow, _____
 are unfriendly, and _____
 _____ are loud. _____
 _____ is unbelievable.

4. Why do they choose a comedy?

Because the woman likes _____
 _____, but the man
 prefers _____.
 But _____ isn't
 funny.



5. What goes wrong at the theater?

The man drops _____ in
 _____. _____
 is angry about _____.
 The woman in front of the couple
 has _____, so he
 can't see _____.



6. What transportation problems
 does the couple have?

They find _____ on
 the car window. _____
 is empty. They look for _____,
 but _____ are all full.



7. What happens at her house?

He starts to give her _____,
 but he trips on _____.
 She goes in the house and closes
 _____ on his foot. _____
 _____ is terrible. He wraps
 _____ around it and limps
 home. It is _____.



INDEFINITE (UNIDENTIFIED) & DEFINITE (IDENTIFIED) NOUNS IN SENTENCES

INDEFINITE NOUNS ARE NOT YET IDENTIFIED. THEY CAN BE THE SUBJECTS OF SENTENCES WITH THERE IS/ARE AND OTHER SENTENCES. A SINGULAR INDEFINITE NOUN FOLLOWS A/AN OR ONE. AN INDEFINITE PLURAL NOUN CAN COME AFTER A NUMBER. AN INDEFINITE PLURAL OR UNCOUNTABLE NOUN NEEDS NO MARKER, BUT IT CAN FOLLOW A QUANTITY WORD OR PHRASE.

A DEFINITE NOUN IS IDENTIFIED. IT CAN BE THE SUBJECT OF A SENTENCE WITHOUT THERE IS/ARE. IT CAN COME AFTER THE WORD THIS, THESE, THAT, OR THOSE OR A POSSESSIVE NOUN OR ADJECTIVE. MOST OFTEN, A DEFINITE NOUN FOLLOWS THE.

BOTH INDEFINITE AND DEFINITE NOUNS CAN BE OBJECTS OF VERBS AND PREPOSITIONS.

	THERE IS /ARE	SUBJECT	VERB (+ PREPOSITION)	NOUN-PHRASE OBJECT (OR ADJ.)	ADVERB (PHRASE)	
STATEMENTS	There's There are	<u>a</u> story <u>pictures</u>			on page 177. with <u>the</u> story.	
		<u>A</u> couple <u>They</u> <u>The</u> woman	goes on don't have wants	<u>a</u> blind date. <u>any</u> interests <u>Chinese</u> food.	in common.	
	IS / ARE / DO(ES)	THERE	SUBJECT	VERB (+ PREPOSITION)	NOUN-PHRASE OBJECT (OR ADJ.)	ADVERB (PHRASE)
QUESTIONS	Is Aren't	there there	<u>a</u> menu <u>any</u> waiters			on <u>the</u> table? in <u>this</u> restaurant?
	Is Does Does		<u>your</u> salad <u>that</u> guy <u>his</u> date	have pay for	<u>all</u> right? <u>any</u> credit cards <u>her own</u> dinner?	with him?



**Grammar: Recognizing Indefinite Nouns

Indefinite nouns are words or phrases for unidentified items. There are two kinds.

In phrases with general meaning, the idea of "any" or "all" is understood. For example:

*A blind date is a social meeting between strangers. People sometimes arrange blind dates for single friends.
(Any blind date = any social meeting between any strangers. All people can arrange them for any and all single friends.)*

***Occasionally, *the* can come before a noun with general meaning, as in:

Do you prefer life in the big city or the suburbs? (These phrases mean any or all big cities or suburban areas.)

In other phrases, an indefinite noun names a particular item, but listeners or readers can't yet answer the question "Which one?" or "Which ones?" or "Which uncountable noun is it?" For example:

We finally pick an American restaurant. I order roast beef, rice, broccoli, and a small salad. She has a steak with mashed potatoes and beans. (These sentences mention an American restaurant and some kinds of food for the first time. Listeners or readers don't yet know anything about them.)

14-C In the *Scenario: What an Experience!* on page 177, put smooth circles around the indefinite (unidentified) noun phrases. Put jagged circles around those noun phrases that are definite (identified). **EXAMPLES:**

I AM ON A BLIND DATE WITH A WOMAN FROM NEW YORK. SHE IS A TEACHER IN A PRESCHOOL. SHE HAS A STRONG ACCENT AND USES BABY TALK. SHE IS INTERESTED IN . . .

. . . I ORDER ROAST BEEF, RICE, BROCCOLI, AND A SMALL SALAD. ~~THE ROAST BEEF~~ IS OVERCOOKED, ~~THE RICE~~ IS BURNED, ~~THE BROCCOLI~~ IS TOO SALTY, AND ~~THE SALAD~~ IS WILTED. . . .

***14-D** On the lines before the singular non-specific nouns, write a or an. Put X (for no word) before the non-specific plural and uncountable nouns and noun phrases. Write the before the specific nouns—the nouns already identified in the story.

What an Experience!

I am on 1 a blind date with 2 _____ woman from New York. She has 3 _____ strong accent and uses 4 X baby talk. She is interested in 5 _____ classical music, 6 _____ literature, 7 _____ languages, and 8 _____ education. My interests are 9 _____ jazz, 10 _____ sports, 11 _____ astronomy, and 12 _____ fast cars.

**Grammar: Recognizing Definite Nouns

Definite nouns are words or phrases for identified items. Speakers, writers, listeners, and/or readers already have some information about definite nouns. They can get this knowledge in several ways:

Some nouns are introduced (mentioned) earlier. In these examples there are jagged circles around the identified nouns:

We pick an American restaurant with cheap food. ~~The restaurant~~ is downtown. ~~The food~~ is terrible. (Which restaurant? The American restaurant downtown—the one we pick. Which food? The food in that restaurant.)

***Can a pronoun like *he, him, she, her, it, they*, etc. replace a noun? Then the noun is identified. Or do different words name things mentioned before? Then they are identified too. Here are examples:

I'm on a blind date with a woman from New York. ~~The woman~~ (= She) is a teacher in a preschool. ~~The school~~ (= It) is for very young children. ~~My date~~ (= The woman = She) wants Chinese food at an expensive café. ~~The restaurant~~ (= The expensive café = It) is on Broadway. She wants the jim sun (= the Chinese food she wants).

Some definite nouns need no identification in sentences because there is only *one* of that thing—or the items are clear from the situation. For example:

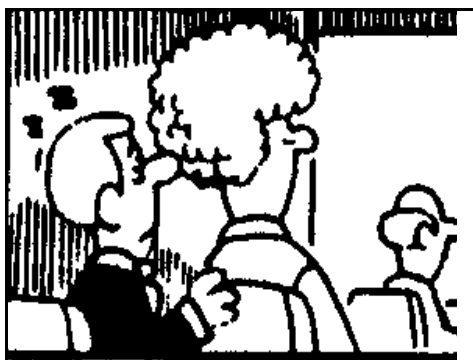
We don't want that table (The speaker points to it.) because it's dirty. ~~These menus~~ (The speaker is holding them.) are dirty too. Where are all the waiters? (= the servers on duty) Are they in the kitchen? (The restaurant has only one kitchen.) How about the four tables outside (Which tables? The four tables outside the restaurant.) ~~The sun~~ is shining. (Which sun? There's only one.)



She belongs to 13 _____ liberal political group. I am 14 _____ right-wing conservative. In 15 _____ other words, we have nothing in common.

My date wants 16 X Chinese or Thai food, but I prefer 17 _____ Italian or Greek dishes. We finally pick 18 _____ American restaurant on 19 _____ busy city street. I order 20 _____ roast beef with 21 _____ gravy, 22 _____ baked potato, 23 _____ vegetables, and 24 _____ small salad. But 25 _____ beef is overcooked, 26 _____ potato is burned, 27 _____ vegetables are too salty, and 28 _____ salad is wilted. She has 29 _____ bowl of 30 _____ soup, 31 _____ tiny tough steak, 32 _____ dry mashed potatoes, and 33 _____ green beans. 34 _____ soup has 35 _____ fly in it, and there is 36 _____ hair in 37 _____ beans. 38 _____ service is slow. 39 _____ waiters are rude. 40 _____ customers at 41 _____ next table are loud. How can 42 _____ check be so high? It's unbelievable! What do I discover then? I don't have 43 _____ cash on me. And I don't have 44 _____ credit cards. So I borrow 45 _____ money from my date.

After 46 _____ dinner we decide to go to 47 _____ movie. She likes 48 _____ love stories, but I prefer 49 _____ action films, so we choose 50 _____ comedy. I start to pay 51 _____ cashier at 52 _____ movie theater, but I drop 53 _____ money in 54 _____ puddle of 55 _____ water. 56 _____ cashier is angry about 57 _____ wet bills. Inside 58 _____ theater, 59 _____ woman in front of us has 60 _____ large hairdo, so I can't see 61 _____ screen. But so what? 62 _____ movie isn't funny, anyway. I can't buy 63 _____ popcorn because 64 _____ line in 65 _____ lobby is too long. My date is enjoying 66 _____ humor of 67 _____ funny parts, so I don't say anything. I just fall asleep.



After ⁶⁸ _____ movie, we go to
⁶⁹ _____ car and find ⁷⁰ _____
parking ticket on ⁷¹ _____ front
window. I have to pay ⁷² _____ big
fine next week. ⁷³ _____ gas tank is
empty too. We look for ⁷⁴ _____
taxi but ⁷⁵ _____ cabs are all full.
So I walk her home.

At ⁷⁶ _____ door of her house,
I start to give her ⁷⁷ _____ kiss,
but I trip on ⁷⁸ _____ doormat.
⁷⁹ _____ pain is terrible. I ring
⁸⁰ _____ doorbell. Her mother
answers ⁸¹ _____ door. I wrap
⁸² _____ bandage
on my foot. Then I limp
home. It is ⁸³ _____
very long walk.



⁸⁴ _____ next day, I call
⁸⁵ _____ woman from New York.
⁸⁶ _____ phone rings several
times. Then ⁸⁷ _____ voice says,
“Hello?” I

*****14-D** *In your own words, continue the story. Use different kinds of nouns—countable and uncountable, non-specific and specific—without and with noun markers. How does the story end? Use your own ideas.*

**Vocabulary: Markers Before Indefinite & Definite Nouns

Markers for indefinite nouns are *a/an*, numbers, and quantity expressions. Possessive forms and the words *the, this, that, these*, and *those* are markers for definite (identified) nouns. How do speakers or writers decide on appropriate markers for noun phrases? They answer these questions and choose from the given words or phrases.

Which particular item(s) are you talking about? Do listeners or readers know?

YES ↓	NO		
	Singular? ↓	Plural? ↓	Uncountable? ↓
Use a possessive form OR <i>this, that, these, or those</i> OR <i>the</i> .	For emphasis only, use the number <i>one</i> OR <i>a</i> or <i>an</i> .	Use a number OR a quantity expression OR <i>X</i> (no marker)	Use a quantity expression OR <i>X</i> (no marker)

****Are you talking about an item or items in general—not a particular thing or things?*

YES			NO
Singular? ↓	Plural? ↓	Uncountable? ↓	Follow the above rules for a particular item or items.
Use <i>a</i> or <i>an</i>	Don't use a marker. (X)	Don't use a marker. (X)	

Before an indefinite singular noun, the word *an* combines with the adjective *other*, as in: *Will they go on another date?*

****The rules for general, definite, and indefinite nouns do not apply to capitalized names of particular people, places, calendar times, etc.—like *Mr. Stern, Mars, the Middle East, Ocean Avenue, April, Saturday*, and so on.*