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| Grammar Lesson Plan (Task-Based Approach) |

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| *The Zero Article* |

Students:

4 Students

Level:

High-Intermediate

Length:

40 minutes

Instructor:

Sa Rang Kim

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| **Materials:**   * Picture of the definite article the or zero article for eliciting * 4 copies of the Zero Article Rules * 4 copies of Grammar Challenge * Students’ cell phones * 4 copies of Crossword Puzzle * 4 pieces of Post-it for SOS Plan * Board & Board markers |

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| **Aims:**   * Main Aim: To enable students to improve their grammar skills by having them read, practice, and answer the questions about the zero article. * Secondary Aim: Students will improve their grammar skills through rules, worksheets, and engaging in a discussion * Personal Aim: I want to deliver better instructions, consistent with ICQs, and increase STT. |

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| **Language Skills:**   * Speaking: Students will speak in discussion, and presentation. * Listening: Students will listen to teacher’s instructions and other student’s opinions. * Reading: Students will read the Zero Article Rules and instructions on worksheets. * Writing: Students will write on worksheets and board. |

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| **Language Systems:**   * Phonology: None to discuss. * Lexis: None to discuss. * Grammar: The zero article. * Function: None to discuss. * Discourse: None to discuss. |

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| **Assumptions:**   * Students know they should speak only English in the class. * Students will be interested in learning articles because they consider it as their weakness. * Students already know what articles are. * Students can read and understand the rules * Students will be able to apply the rules on the worksheet questions. |

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| **Anticipated Errors and Solutions:**  Problems Solutions  - If time is running out - Shorten the discussion time (cut-off plan)  - If there is more time than expected - Give students 1st SOS plan worksheet  - If there is still more time than expected - Give students 2nd SOS plan worksheet  - If students don’t have full knowledge - Allow them to refer to the zero article rules  of the rules for answering questions  - If they have hard time understanding - Explain to them giving easy examples  some words |

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| **References:**   * <http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/articlestext.htm#NoArticle> * <http://www.davidappleyard.com/english/articles.htm#Zero%20article> |

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| **Lead-In** | | |
| Materials: | | |
| Time  2 min | Set Up  Whole Class | Procedure:  Good morning, everyone. How are you today?  Would you like a piece of chocolate? Or would you like chocolates? |

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| **Pre-Activity** | | |
| Materials: Picture of the definite article the or zero article for eliciting, the Zero Article Rules, Grammar Challenge | | |
| Time  6 min  5 min | Set Up  Whole class  Pair | Procedure:  **<Eliciting**: present pictures**>**  (Show the zero article sign) What do you call this? (Wait 20-40 sec for Ss to think and answer)  (Show ‘the’) Then, how about this?  Articles!!  **<CCQ>**  Does the zero article use the in front of noun?  Does the zero article use nothing in front of noun?  (Give handouts ‘the Zero Article Rules’)  (Go over the rules briefly together)  (Give out Grammar Challenge)  **<Instruction>**  (Ask a S to read the instruction)You will circle the right answer after reading each sentence. If you are not sure you can refer to the Zero Article Rule handout. You will work alone for now and you have 3 minutes to do the worksheet.  **<ICQ>**  What will you do?  How many minutes do you have?  Are you working alone?  Okay, start!  (Monitor discreetly)  (Give time warning: 30 sec left)  **<Instruction>**  Now we will discuss with a partner. You will discuss why you think it’s correct or not correct about 3 minutes. And I will ask your opinions.  **<Demonstration>**  For example, (on the board write “I love drinking coffee”) why no article? With a simple phrase I can tell why. (Write uncountable noun)  **<ICQ>**  What will you do?  How many minutes do you have?  Are you working alone?  Okay, start!  (Monitor discreetly)  (Give time warning: 30 sec left) Times up!  Now, let’s talk about it. (Ask Ss why and encourage them to speak their opinion freely). |
| **Main Activity** | | |
| Materials: Cell Phone | | |
| Time  7 min  4 min  5 min  3 min | Set Up  Individually  Pair  Individually  Pair | Procedure:  **<Instruction>**  On the back of a worksheet, you will write a funny story including these words: bed, church, work, love, television, Burger King, and lunch. Be creative. You will have 5 min to do this alone.  **<Demonstration>**  Dustin was on his way to Times Tesol. Suddenly, he had a stomachache. He didn’t even have breakfast but he wanted to go to a bathroom. He grabbed his stomach and ran in to McDonald’s to use the bathroom.  **<ICQ>**  What will you do?  How many minutes do you have?  Are you working alone?  Okay, start!  (Monitor discreetly)  (Give time warning: 30 sec left) Finish up, please.  **<Instruction>**  (Grouping) (with an open palm, let them say zero, article, zero, article)  Now this is a fun part. Bring out your cell phone and you will type your story and send a text message to your partner. The first person to text earns 5 points. If misspelled, the first person cannot earn points but next person will. When I say ready, set, go, you will start.  **<ICQ>**  What will you do?  Are you working alone?  When do you start?  Okay, ready, set, go!  (Monitor discreetly)  (Give time warning: 30 sec left) Time’s up.  Now, let’s do it one more round.  **<Instruction>**  You will have different words: by car, money, room 303, sea, and chocolate. You will have 4 min to do this alone.  **<ICQ>**  What will you do?  How many minutes do you have?  Are you working alone?  Okay, start!  (Monitor discreetly)  (Give time warning: 30 sec left) Finish up, please.  **<Instruction>**  (Grouping) (with an open palm, let them say zero, article, zero, article)  Texting time!  **<ICQ>**  What will you do?  Are you working alone?  When do you start?  Okay, ready, set, go!  Okay, start!  (Monitor discreetly)  (Give time warning: 30 sec left) |

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| **Post-Activity** | | |
| Materials: Crossword Puzzle, SOS plan (post-it) | | |
| Time  8 min | Set Up  Whole class | Procedure:  **<Instruction>**  This is crossword puzzle. If you get confused, refer to the zero article rule handout. You will work individually and have 3 minutes.  **<ICQ>**  What will you do?  How many minutes do you have?  Are you working alone?  Okay, start!  (Monitor discreetly)  (Give time warning: 30 sec left)  Okay, start to wrap it up.  (Go over it together)  **<If class runs short, SOS plan>**  (hand out post-it)  **<Instruction>**  Write a sentence using the zero article and fold it. When you all are done we will put them in this cup. You will work individually and have 1 minute.  **<ICQ>**  What will you do?  How many minutes do you have?  Are you working alone?  Okay, start!  (Monitor discreetly)  (Give time warning: 30 sec left)  Okay, start to wrap it up.  (put them in a cup, mix it, have Ss to choose a paper, and guess whose it is).  **<Error Correction & Feedback>**  (If found a mistake, correct it)  Sentence Scramble  I / from / work / a / right / way / came  Give me 1 new thing that you learned today.  Very nice job done for today. Have a nice day and see you tomorrow. |

**Use “zero article (*∅)”* to refer to generalizations**

When referring to something in general, a zero article is used.

For example:

* I like *∅* cats.
* She enjoys talking to *∅* old people.
* He only cares about *∅* money.
* Water is an important ingredient for *∅* good health. (uncountable noun)

**Common nouns with a zero article**

A number of countable nouns do not take articles “a/an, the” in special cases, e.g. go by car, go to school, be in bed. The following list gives a number of common expressions with a zero article:

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| No article is needed before **abstract** nouns used in a general sense. | * Love is all you need. * Crime is a growing problem in the inner cities. |
| No article is needed for most places consisting of just the **name of a person**, or the **name of a person/place** followed by a noun. | * Harrods, Macys, McDonald's, Lloyds Bank, St. Paul's Cathedral, Buckingham Palace, Kennedy Airport, Waterloo Station, Cambridge University, etc. |
| No article is usually needed in front of **company names**. | * Cisco Systems, Microsoft, CBS, EMI, Hitachi, Lufthansa, etc |
| An article is unnecessary in **official job titles**, if there is only one person holding this position at any given time. | * George Osborne is (the) Chancellor of the Exchequer.   *Compare:*   * George Osborne is **a** cabinet minister. |
| No article is needed in front of *most* **roads, streets, parks, squares or bridges**. | * Queen's Road, Oxford Street, Central Park, Times Square, Tower Bridge, etc. |
| No article is needed in the **names of single mountains**. | * While in New Zealand I climbed Mount Cook. |
| No article is needed before the names of meals, unless it is a formal occasion. | * Roger had breakfast in his hotel room.   *Compare:*   * I attended **a** dinner at the Rotary Club. |
| No article is needed for the **names of games or sports**. | * Anna Kournikova plays tennis to keep in shape. |
| No article is needed before ***bed*, *church*, *court*, *hospital*, *prison*, *school*, *college*, *university***, etc. when these are used for their primary purpose.        If, however, they are used for any other purposes, ***the*** is required. | * She stayed **in bed** on Sunday instead of going **to church**. * The dissatisfied customer threatened to take him **to court**. * The dissident was released **from prison**. * After graduating from high school he went **to university**.   *Compare:*   * She sat on the bed while she changed her socks. * He entered the church to photograph its interior. * The decorators forgot a ladder in the prison and the place was empty when they came back for it. |
| Articles are not needed in more abstract expressions of situation like ***to/at sea*, t*o/at/out of work*, *in/out of town*, *in/out of office***, etc.          If, however, you start talking about somewhere concrete or some place in particular, then the definite article ***the*** is required. | * My uncle first went *to sea* at the age of 15. He used to spend months *at sea*. * I go *to work* every day. I was *at work* yesterday. * Jack's been *out of work* for almost a year. * What's on *in town* (= my local town) this weekend? * Julie's *out of town* (= the town she lives in) until Thursday. * This government has been *in office* for about a year now. The opposition parties would dearly love to vote them *out of office*.   *Compare:*   * I went to the sea/seaside to swim.  I stayed by the sea/seaside all day. * What's on in the town (= a particular town, not necessarily my own) this weekend? * How do I get out of the town? * Sally spent all day in the office (= her workplace). She didn't get out of the office much before 7 o'clock. |
| No article is needed before **television** as a medium,  only as an appliance. | * Carol saw her brother on television.   *Compare:*   * She had an indoor antenna on the television. |
| There is no article before a noun followed by **a categorizing letter or number**. | * The students have just read section C. * The Chicago train is about to depart from track 5. * Her flight leaves from gate 32. * He fell asleep on page 816 of  "*War and Peace"*. * She is staying in room 689. |
| To give added punch, articles are often dropped in **the titles of books, movies, music and other works of art**.  Even if an article exists in the original title, as in  J.R.R. Tolkien's  *'The Lord of the Rings'*, people tend to omit this when making reference to it in everyday speech or writing. | |  | | --- | | * *"Journey into Hell"* sounds even more exciting   than *"The Journey into Hell"*.   * "Have you read *'Lord of the Rings'*?" | |  | |
| In order to save space, articles are usually dropped **in headlines**. | * "Iraqi Head Seeks Arms" * "Stolen Painting Found by Tree" * "Police Confirm Shotgun Attack on Bullet Train" |

**Grammar Challenge**

**Zero Articles**

**Exercise 1:**

Read each sentences and decide whether it is correct or not.

1. I don’t really like sweet things but I love a **chocolate.**
2. Correct
3. Not correct
4. She goes to work **by bus**.
5. Correct
6. Not correct
7. They usually go skiing in **the Alps** but last year they went to France and skied on **the Mont Blanc**.
8. Correct
9. Not correct
10. **What the great holiday** we had in Italy and **what the fantastic cheese** we ate!

a. Correct

b. Not correct

1. He’s from **the Maldives** and she’s from **Ireland.**

a. Correct

b. Not correct

1. He bought **a pair of jeans** and **the most fantastic suit** I‘ve ever seen.

a. Correct

b. Not correct