

# Unit Six

## Articles and Nouns

With nouns, we can use an **indefinite article** (a poet, an old woman), a **definite article** (the weather, the woman) or **no article** (we're studying– poetry written by – woman).

Most **proper** nouns have **no** article (Shakespeare, Denmark, Rome, NATO, Monday).

But we use some proper nouns with the **definite article in the plural** ( the Arabs, the united nations) and **some in the singular** (the White house, the Gulf war)

# Countable or uncountable nouns

- Common nouns are either **countable** or **uncountable**
- We can use **countable** nouns in the **singular**, with a/an and each:
- Do you have **a black pen**? **Each child** should have a book.
- We can use **uncountable** nouns with no article, and much:
- Her poem is about **flying, freedom, and bad luck**.
- They don't have **much water**.
- a/an =one: **One day** we had an accident.
- a/an or no article: would you like **a coffee**? Do you prefer **coffee or tea**?
- The or no article: we studied **the history** of Scotland. He taught us Scottish **history**.

# Nouns: generic, pair, group, plural and singular(+s)

- **Generic nouns:** An orange has lots of vitamin C.
- The telephone rules my life.
- Women live longer than men.
- **Pair nouns:** These scissors are sharp.
- I like white trousers.
- There's a nice pair of trousers on sale.
- **Group nouns:** the public, the government.
- **Plural and singular (+s) nouns:**
- **Plural:** Good manners are important.
- **Singular:** Statistics was a difficult course.



# Possessive and compound nouns

## Articles and nouns in discourse

- Possessive nouns: **one man's story**. **Burns' poems**.
- Compound nouns: **bus driver**, **history teacher**, **paper plates**, **health food magazine**, **a do-it- yourself store**.
- We introduce **new** information with **a/an** and **repeat old** information with **the**:
- We read **a report** in a medical journal. **The report** said that the treatment had been effective.
- We were thinking of buying **a house** in Wimbledon, but **the kitchen** was too small.