

ZERO Article

Sometimes it is possible to have a noun phrase with NO article—the so-called "ZERO article".

I need *a bowl of rice*. ← indefinite article

I like *the rice in this restaurant*. ← definite article

I eat *rice* every day. ← ZERO article

The ZERO article usually occurs in the following cases:

ZERO Article with Plural and Uncountable Nouns

General meaning

- *cars, people*
- *life, water*

Abstract nouns

- *education, happiness, music*

ZERO Article with Singular Countable Nouns

Names

- *People: Mary, Bill, Josef*
- *Places: Jupiter, Russia, Bangkok, Heathrow Airport, Cambridge University, Waterloo Station*
- *Streets: Oxford Street, Wall Street, Picadilly Circus*
- *Languages: English, Russian*
- *Academic subjects: History, Law, Physics*
- *Days, months: Monday, November*

Games and Sports

- *football, chess*

Meals

- *breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Noun + Number

- *platform 3, room 7, page 44*

Routine Places

- *in bed, at home, to school, to work*

Movement or Transport

- *on foot, by car, by bus, by air*

Newspaper Headlines, Notices, User Guides

- *Plane Crashes On House, Keep Area Clean, Insert battery*

Example Sentences

Here are some example sentences showing the ZERO article in context.

- ***Cars** can be dangerous.*
- *We seldom see **courage** like that.*
- *I could see **clouds** in the sky.*
- *There was **milk** on the doorstep.*
- *I gave it to **Mary**.*
- *She arrived in **Bangkok** yesterday.*
- *Do you speak **French**?*
- *He is good at **tennis**.*
- *People will travel to **Mars** soon.*
- *He is in **room 45**.*
- *Please turn to **page 67**.*
- *She's in **bed**.*
- *Are you at **home**?*
- *They took her to **hospital**.*
- *I'm leaving **town** tomorrow by **car**.*
- *I go to **school** by **bus**.*
- *We usually meet on **Monday**.*
- ***November** is quite cold.*