

University grammar/ Chapter Four

Nouns, Pronouns, and the Basic Noun Phrase

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Reference and the articles (4.16-4.30)

1. Specific/Generic Reference

- **Specific Reference:** Refers to a particular instance or specific member(s) of a class.
 - Example: *A lion and two tigers are sleeping in the cage.*
 - أسد ونمران ينامان في القفص
- **Generic Reference:** Refers to the entire class or category as a whole, without specifying particular members.
 - Example: *Tigers are dangerous animals.*
 - النمرور حيوانات خطيرة

Key Differences:

| Aspect | Specific Reference | Generic Reference |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Definition | Refers to specific instances or members. | Refers to the entire class or category. |
| Example | <i>The tiger in the cage is sleeping.</i> | <i>Tigers are dangerous animals.</i> |
| Articles Used | Definite (<i>the</i>) or indefinite (<i>a/an</i>). | Definite (<i>the</i>), indefinite (<i>a/an</i>), or zero article. |
| Arabic Explanation | يشير إلى أعضاء أو حالات محددة. | يشير إلى الفئة أو النوع ككل. |

2. Generic Reference

2.1. Nationality Words and Adjectives as Head

- Some adjectives and nationality words can act as noun-phrase heads with **generic reference**.
 - Example: *The French are known for their cuisine.*
 - *الفرنسيون معروفون بمطبخهم.*

Rules:

1. Plural Personal Adjectives:

- Used to refer to groups of people sharing a characteristic.
 - Example: *The rich* (those who are rich).
 - *الأغنياء*
 - Example: *The poor* (those who are poor).
 - *الفقراء*

2. Nationality Words:

- Used to refer to the people of a nation.
 - Example: *The English* (the English nation).
 - *الإنجليز*
 - Example: *The Germans* (the German people).
 - *الألمان*

2.2. Non-Count and Plural Count Nouns

- **Non-count nouns** and **plural count nouns** often use the **zero article** for **generic reference**.
 - Example: *Music is soothing.*
 - *الموسيقى مهدئة*
 - Example: *Lakes are beautiful.*
 - *البحيرات جميلة*

Rules:

1. Non-Count Nouns:

- Refer to uncountable substances or concepts.
 - Example: *Wine is made from grapes.*
 - النبيذ مصنوع من العنب.
 - Example: *History teaches us many lessons.*
 - التاريخ يعلمنا دروسًا كثيرة.

2. Plural Count Nouns:

- Refer to multiple countable items.
 - Example: *Tigers are endangered.*
 - النمور مهددة بالانقراض.
 - Example: *Books are a source of knowledge.*
 - الكتب مصدر للمعرفة.

3. Specific Reference

3.1. Indefinite and Definite

- **Indefinite Article (a/an):** Used for **specific reference** with singular count nouns when the noun is unknown or unspecified.
 - Example: *I saw a tiger.*
 - رأيت نمراً.
- **Definite Article (the):** Used for **specific reference** when the noun is known or previously mentioned.
 - Example: *The tiger is sleeping.*
 - النمر نائم.

Rules:

1. Indefinite Article:

- Used when introducing a noun for the first time.
 - Example: *She bought a book.*
 - اشترت كتاباً.
 - Example: *I need an umbrella.*
 - أحتاج إلى مظلة.

2. Definite Article:

- Used when the noun is already known or specific.
 - Example: *The book on the table is mine.*
 - الكتاب على الطاولة لي.
 - Example: *The music playing is soothing.*
 - الموسيقى التي تعزف مهدئة.

3.2. Common Nouns with Zero Articles

- Some common nouns take the **zero article** in specific contexts, such as institutions, means of transport, and meals.
 - Example: *She goes to school.*
 - هي تذهب إلى المدرسة.

Rules:

1. Institutions:

- Used without articles when referring to the purpose of the place.
 - Example: *He is in prison.*
 - هو في السجن.
 - Example: *They go to church.*
 - هم يذهبون إلى الكنيسة.

2. Means of Transport:

- Used without articles when referring to the mode of transport.
 - Example: *We travel by car.*
 - نسافر بالسيارة.
 - Example: *She came by train.*
 - جاءت بالقطار.

3. Meals:

- Used without articles when referring to meals in general.
 - Example: *We had breakfast.*

- تناولنا الإفطار.
- Example: *Dinner is ready.*
- العشاء جاهز.

3.3. Article Usage with Common Nouns in Intensive Relation

- Common nouns in **intensive relations** (e.g., complements) require articles.
 - Example: *John became a businessman.*
 - أصبح جون رجل أعمال.

Rules:

1. Indefinite Article:

- Used when the complement is unspecified.
 - Example: *Mary considered John a genius.*
 - اعتبرت ماري جون عبقرية.

2. Definite Article:

- Used when the complement is specific.
 - Example: *John became the captain of the team.*
 - أصبح جون قائد الفريق.

4. Unique Reference

4.1. Proper Nouns

- **Proper nouns** (names of people, places, etc.) usually do not take articles unless they are modified.
 - Example: *John is here.*
 - جون هنا.

Rules:

1. Without Articles:

- Used for names of people, places, and things.
 - Example: *Paris is beautiful.*
 - باريس جميلة.
 - Example: *Shakespeare wrote many plays.*
 - شكسبير كتب العديد من المسرحيات.

2. With Articles:

- Used when the proper noun is modified or part of a title.
 - Example: *The John I know is kind.*
 - جون الذي أعرفه لطيف.
 - Example: *The Paris of the 1920s was vibrant.*
 - باريس في العشرينيات كانت نابضة بالحياة.

4.2. Personal Names

- Personal names with or without titles.
 - Example: *Dr. Watson is here.*
 - الدكتور واتسون هنا.

Rules:

1. With Titles:

- Used for formal names.
 - Example: *President Lincoln gave a speech.*

- ألقى الرئيس لينكولن خطابًا.
- Example: *Lady Bracknell is elegant.*
- السيدة براكنيل أنيقة.

2. Without Titles:

- Used for informal names.
 - Example: *John is my friend.*
 - جون صديقي.
 - Example: *Mary is coming.*
 - ماري قادمة.

4.3. Calendar Items

- Names of festivals, months, and days of the week.
 - Example: *Christmas is in December.*
 - عيد الميلاد في ديسمبر.

Rules:

1. Festivals:

- Used without articles.
 - Example: *New Year's Day is a holiday.*
 - رأس السنة هو عطلة.
 - Example: *Independence Day is celebrated in July.*
 - يتم الاحتفال بيوم الاستقلال في يوليو.

2. Months and Days:

- Used without articles.
 - Example: *January is the first month.*
 - يناير هو الشهر الأول.
 - Example: *Monday is a busy day.*
 - الاثنين يوم مزدحم.

4.4. Geographical Names

- Names of continents, countries, cities, lakes, and mountains.
 - Example: *The Nile is in Africa.*
 - النيل في أفريقيا

Rules:

1. Continents:

- Used without articles.
 - Example: *Asia is the largest continent.*
 - آسيا هي أكبر قارة
 - Example: *Europe is beautiful.*
 - أوروبا جميلة

2. Countries and Cities:

- Used without articles.
 - Example: *France is in Europe.*
 - فرنسا في أوروبا
 - Example: *Paris is the capital of France.*
 - باريس هي عاصمة فرنسا

4.5. Name + Common Noun

- Names combined with common nouns (e.g., buildings, streets, bridges).
 - Example: *Madison Avenue is busy.*
 - جادة ماديسون مزدحمة

Rules:

1. Buildings:

- Used with or without articles depending on the name.
 - Example: *The Empire State Building is tall.*
 - مبنى إمباير ستيت طويل
 - Example: *The Eiffel Tower is in Paris.*

- برج إيفل في باريس

2. Streets and Bridges:

- Used without articles.
 - Example: *Oxford Street is famous.*
 - شارع أكسفورد مشهور
 - Example: *The Golden Gate Bridge is iconic.*
 - جسر جولدن جيت أيقوني

4.6. Proper Nouns with Definite Article

- Some proper nouns retain the definite article (*the*) even when institutionalized.
 - Example: *The United States is large.*
 - الولايات المتحدة كبيرة

Rules:

1. Geographical Names:

- Used with *the* for rivers, oceans, and mountain ranges.
 - Example: *The Nile is long.*
 - النيل طويل
 - Example: *The Pacific Ocean is vast.*
 - المحيط الهادئ واسع

2. Institutions:

- Used with *the* for museums, newspapers, and organizations.
 - Example: *The British Museum is famous.*
 - المتحف البريطاني مشهور
 - Example: *The New York Times is a newspaper.*
 - نيويورك تايمز هي جريدة

END OF THE 2ND LECTURE /CHAPTER FOUR