

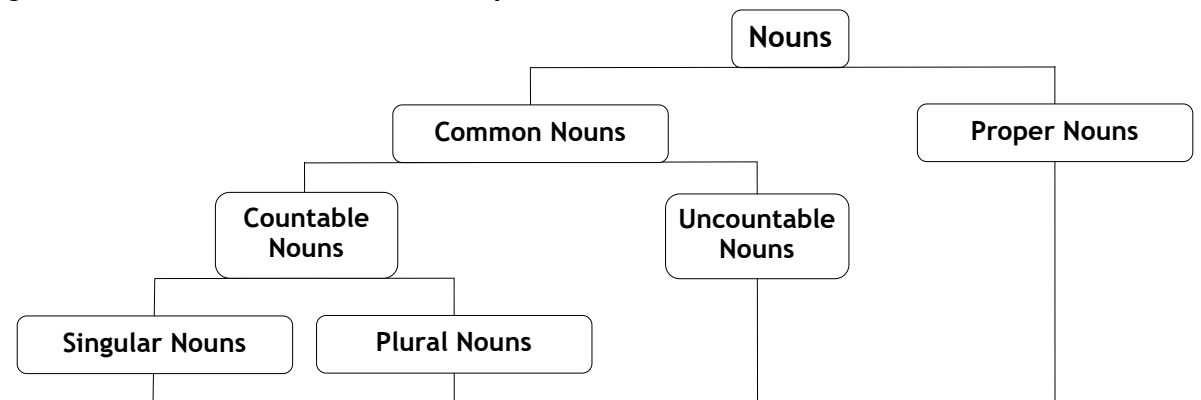
Articles (or determiners) are used before nouns for clarity.

1. “The” is a definite article and refers to a particular item:

The studies, however, illustrated several health risks associated with artificial sweeteners (Dalton & Fool, 2010). → “The” refers to specific studies that are cited here.

2. “A/an” is an indefinite article and refers to any item within a group of possible items:

A study needs to be done on the effects of artificial sweeteners on adolescents. → “A” refers to any study that might be done in the future on this topic.



	cannot be used <i>without</i> a determiner	rings	jewelry	John
<i>Any kind of this item</i>	a ring	some rings	some jewelry	proper nouns cannot take a determiner unless it is part of the name (e.g. - The United States)
<i>One particular item</i>	the ring	the rings	the jewelry	
<i>With “this,” “that,” etc.</i>	this ring that ring	these rings those rings	this jewelry that jewelry	
<i>With a number</i>	one ring	two rings three rings four rings	cannot be used with a number	
<i>With a pronoun</i>	my ring your ring John’s ring	my rings your rings John’s rings	my jewelry your jewelry John’s jewelry	
<i>With “a lot” or “lots”</i>		a lot of rings lots of rings	a lot of jewelry lots of jewelry	
<i>With “many,” “much,” etc.</i>		many rings a few rings	much jewelry a little jewelry	