DEFINITIONS

Common Noun: a generic noun referring to a person, place, or thing

Proper Noun: a noun that refers to specific people, places, or things

Specific Noun: a unique noun or a noun that has been explained with specific details; easily comprehended by the audience; has previously been identified in a text

Unspecific Noun: a noun that is not unique; refers to any number of identical nouns

Countable Noun: a noun that can be counted because it can be separated

Uncountable Noun: a noun that cannot be counted because it has an abstract quantity or exists as mass

ARTICLE SELECTION IMPACTS THE MEANING OF A WORD

Common Noun
Unspecific Noun
Specific Noun

Countable Noun
- singular
  - a/an
- plural
  - Ø

Uncountable Noun
- singular
- plural
  - Ø
  - the

Proper Noun
- singular
  - no article Ø
- plural
  - the
Rules

SPECIFIC NOUN – use *the*

Examples:
- *The food* that I purchased was donated to the food bank
- *The moon* is full tonight.
- He found a *cat* in the garden. *The cat* was hungry.
- *The green container* was empty.

UNSPECIFIC UNCOUNTABLE NOUN – Ø

Examples:
- Talent comes naturally to some people
- The students received *information* from the course instructor.

UNSPECIFIC COUNTABLE SINGULAR NOUN – *a, an*

Examples:
- *She is looking for an apartment* in the downtown area.
- *A change* in the weather could impact the event.

UNSPECIFIC COUNTABLE PLURAL NOUN – Ø

Examples:
- *Passports* are required for entry into the country.
- *Tourists* travel to Newfoundland to experience *icebergs* and *whales*.

PROPER NOUN (SINGULAR) - Ø

Examples
- We traveled to Newfoundland.
- I registered for Memorial University.

PROPER NOUN (PLURAL) – use the

Examples

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