

Every Singular Noun Must Have a 'Friend'

She is	a	very satisfied	client
We met	the	new UK	client
I like	this	future-driven	client
I called	our	Frankfurt	client
We reward	each	extremely loyal	client

Every singular noun must have a small word (a determiner) with it, even if there are adjectives in-between. We can say that every singular noun needs a 'friend'.



'The' with Countries and Organisations

The

United

States (The USA)

The

United

Kingdom (The UK)

The

United Arab

Emirates (The UAE)

The

European

Union (The EU)

The

United

Nations (The UN)

The

World Trade

Organisation (The WTO)

Most countries such as 'Brazil' or 'South Africa' are names, so they don't need 'the'. Some countries have nouns in them, so they need 'the' to go with the noun.



'The' with Names

I manage
I work in
I attended
I visited
We launched
We visited
We developed

the

HR

the

IT

the

Frankfurt

the

North-Africa

the

new Instagram

the

Coca-Cola

the

iOS

department

sector

conference

headquarters

campaign

factory

app

'the' is needed with the single noun on the end of the phrase, not with the name in the middle.



'a' with Lengths of Time

Small line
called a 'hyphen'

No 's'
on the end

I had

It was

I want

I did

This is

a

20-minute

a

6-week

a

4-day

a

10-month

a

2-year

meeting

plan

work-week

course

project

'a' is needed with the single noun on the
end of the phrase, not with the time phrase in the middle



'a' with Prices and Percentages

We ate

I bought

I signed

We saw

We want

a

200-dollar

a

\$10 000

a

\$2m

a

20%

a

2% annual

No 's'
on the end

meal

car

contract

decrease

increase

'a' is needed with the single noun on the
end of the phrase, not with the time phrase in the middle



'a' with Months, Years and Times

I analysed
I attended
We set
I enjoyed
I'm ready for

the 2022
the December
the 1st quarter
the Christmas
the Summer

figures
staff party
targets
sales
season



'the' is needed with the single noun on the
end of the phrase, not with the time phrase in the middle

'a' or 'the' with Singular Nouns

Yesterday, I spoke to **a** hugely important **figure** from **the** IT **industry**. She is

the **leader** of **an** extremely exciting new fintech **firm** in **the** **UK**.

We had **a** quick 30-minute **meeting** to discuss **the** most influential and decisive **factor**

in her success. **The** London-based **company** is **a** real **leader** in terms of personal

finance management in **a** more complex modern financial **world**.

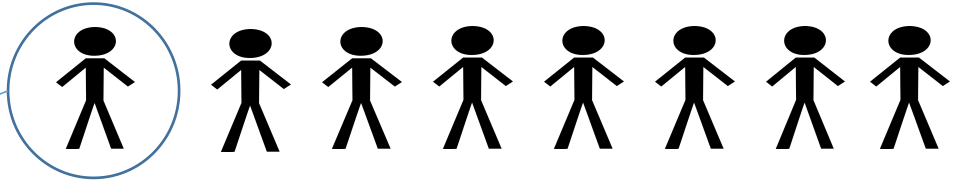
Every singular noun has something with it. Some nouns have a lot of adjectives in between, some nouns have names in between and others have lengths of time in between. All of them require 'a', 'the' or some determiner.



'a' or 'the', the main rule

a One specific thing..from many possibilities

*I have **a** great boss*



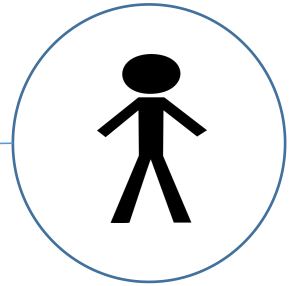
There are millions of great bosses in the world.
My boss is one of them.

the One specific thing.. from only 1 possible option..

1. Because we have just spoken about it before

In the 2nd sentence, there is only 1 possible boss that we could be talking about, because we have introduced him/her in the 1st sentence.

*I have a great boss.
He/she has been **the** boss for 20 years.*



2. There is only 1 possible option from the context of **the whole sentence**

Only 1 possible 'best boss that anyone could wish for.'

*He/she is **the** best boss anyone could wish for.*



3. There is only 1 possible option **that we know**

If we work in the same company. If I say the word 'boss' you know exactly which boss I mean.

*I'll speak to **the** boss.*

