

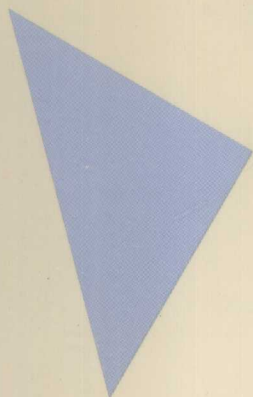
SANTI V. BUSCEMI

AN ESL WORKBOOK TO ACCOMPANY

The Basics

A N D

**The
McGraw-Hill
College
Handbook**



An ESL Workbook to Accompany

The Basics

and

The McGraw-Hill College Handbook

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An ESL Workbook to Accompany The Basics
and The McGraw-Hill College Handbook

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	<i>Work with Count and Noncount (Mass) Nouns</i>	3-8
CHAPTER 2	<i>Use Articles Correctly</i>	9-18
CHAPTER 3	<i>Master Sentence Structure</i>	19-33
CHAPTER 4	<i>Make Subjects and Verbs Agree</i>	35-41
CHAPTER 5	<i>Correct Special Verb Problems</i>	43-59
CHAPTER 6	<i>Use Adjectives and Adverbs Correctly</i>	61-73
CHAPTER 7	<i>Use Present and Past Participles Correctly</i>	75-80
CHAPTER 8	<i>Use Words Correctly</i>	81-89
CHAPTER 9	<i>Master Plurals</i>	91-98
CHAPTER 10	<i>Choose the Correct Preposition</i>	99-105

CHAPTER ONE

WORK WITH COUNT AND NONCOUNT (MASS) NOUNS

Two types of nouns, count and noncount, often cause problems for ESL writers. Count nouns name items that can be counted one by one. Noncount or mass nouns name items that cannot be counted. There are six types of noncount nouns.

Noncount Nouns

1. **Groups/Substances Consisting of Similar Items:**
furniture, equipment, salt
2. **Fluids/Gases:** *water, oxygen*
3. **Games/Sports:** *checkers, tennis*
4. **Substances:** *wood, silk, plastic*
5. **Abstractions:** *life, death, pleasure, pain, love, hatred, philosophy, religion, truth, falsehood, knowledge, ignorance*
6. **Nouns Formed from Verbs:** *studying, working*

Keep the following rules in mind when you use count and noncount (mass) nouns.

1. **Noncount or mass nouns cannot be made plural.**

NOT: *I ate rices for lunch.*

BUT: *I ate rice for lunch.*

OR: *I ate two bowls of rice for lunch.*

2. **Noncount or mass nouns take verbs in the third person singular.**

Love is grand.

Playing chess was his favorite pastime.

Honesty demands courage.

3. **Some nouns can be either count or noncount depending upon the emphasis. When acting as concrete items or examples, they are count nouns. When they stand for a class, they are noncount.**

Count: *Margarete and I saw two films today.*

Noncount: *Margarete and I are majoring in film.*

4. Count and noncount nouns use different articles and determiners.

With Count Nouns: *many, few, a few, each, every, several*

With Noncount Nouns: *much, little, a little.*

You can learn more about count and noncount nouns on pages 175-179 of *The Basics* and on pages 648-649 of *The McGraw-Hill College Handbook*.

EXERCISE 1A: Practice Working with Count and Noncount Nouns

Rewrite the following sentences to correct problems in the use of count and noncount nouns as needed. Write your new sentences in the spaces that follow. Write C for sentences that are correct.

1. Many rain fell last evening.

2. Jack is reading a book on the developments of communism in Eastern Europe.

3. They bought new equipments for the camping trip.

4. Pregnant women shouldn't drink anything that contains alcohols.

5. The Collegiate Assembly will vote on several proposals written by students.

6. Everyone's cooperation are needed to make our plan succeed.

7. I don't have much confidences in his promise to stay out of trouble.

8. In our community, people follow several different faiths, but we all get along.

9. A limb that broke off an oak tree smashed the glasses in my bedroom window.

10. I can hear a lot of airs rushing out of my new tire.

11. When the temperature rises, I make it a point to treat myself to ice creams every day.

12. We don't know how much ozones is left in the atmosphere, but some scientists believe the level is decreasing.

13. As a professional, Jacques has played in more than 150 games of hockeys over the last three years.

14. Skiing in the Rockies are an expensive but exciting way to spend your vacation.

15. Sheeba has too many personal integrity to lie to her friends and family.

16. Ethics are the study of principles used to evaluate personal behavior.

17. Rena enjoys learning about various types of furnitures popular in colonial America.

18. The soldiers gained a lot of grounds as they crawled up the steep hill.

19. The political prisoner protested his arrest by taking no food and very few water.

20. Serena became frightened when she walked into the house and smelled gases.

21. The children were given chicken, peas and carrots, and a lot of corns on the cob for dinner.

22. In art school, Amalia studied paintings as her major.

23. Salvatore's trip to Machu Picchu in Peru allowed him to gather many knowledge about the Incas.

24. Jaime resolved to do goods and avoid evils.

25. As a first-year college student, my uncle wanted to study medicines, but he later went to law school.

CHAPTER TWO

USE ARTICLES CORRECTLY

There are two types of articles in English:

Definite (specific) -- *the*

Indefinite (nonspecific) -- *a, an, some*

Working with articles can be tricky, but not impossible.
Here are some rules that should help you master them.

1. Use *the* with:

- a. All common nouns and with noncount nouns that are specific.

*The people have spoken.
Jane says the cinema is her life.*

- b. Singular count nouns that represent a class of things or people.

Fr. Alegro has devoted his life to the poor.

- c. Plural proper nouns or proper nouns that name an ocean or river, a geographical region, an organization, or a newspaper.

*The Jareds got married fifty years ago.
The Mediterranean Sea has become polluted.
They loved the South.
Prof. Emory serves on the Faculty Senate.
He worked in Moscow as a correspondent for the
Chicago Tribune.*

2. Use *a* or *an* with:

- a. Singular countable nouns that are nonspecific.

*Minerva sat in a corner and read a newspaper.
An elephant and an ostrich appeared to them from
behind an iron fence.*

- b. Singular countable nouns that are generic.

*A magazine is classified as a periodical because
it is published at various intervals or periods.*

NOTE: Do not use a or an with plural nouns:

NOT: *We bought a books.*

BUT: *We bought books.*

3. Use some with:

Plural or noncount nouns that refer to a specifiabale quantity.

The new students needed some advice about studying. I always carry some medicine with me when I travel.

4. Use no article with:

- a. Plural or noncount common nouns that are not specific.

*Stocks and bonds can be risky investments.
Josef's store sells office supplies.
There are games and sports for children of all ages.*

- b. Plural nouns used in an abstract or generic sense.

*Jade plants need frequent watering.
Men suffer from stuttering in greater numbers than women.*

- c. Singular proper nouns that name a person, a country/city/continent, a mountain/lake/bay, or a disease:

*We enjoyed vacationing at Lake Louise.
He suffers from diabetes.
Seattle is close to Portland; they are both near Mt. Rainier.*

- d. Singular nouns that name abstractions such as attitudes, emotions, languages, philosophies, religions, sports, and academic subjects.

*Ambition can't be learned.
Jealousy is destructive.
Dave studies Mandarin and Russian.*

You can learn more about articles on pages 175-179 of *The Basics* and on pages 650-651 of *The McGraw-Hill College Handbook*.

EXERCISE 2A: Practice Working with Articles

Rewrite the following sentences to correct problems with definite and indefinite articles as necessary. Write your new sentences in the spaces that follow. Write C for sentences that are correct.

1. Taj Mahal is one of world's wonders.

2. College has opened new extension campus across town.

3. Our community has worst roads in the county.

4. Textbook we are using is available at all major book stores.

5. Children can bring their parents a happiness as well as a pain.

6. He drives tractor trailer between Tennessee and Ohio.

7. Sheila completed her degree in the chemistry this semester and is now studying the pharmacy.

8. We had a fun at amusement park that recently opened in nearby town.

9. Years ago, the college was not one of the opportunities available to average citizen.

10. Be sure to take some warm clothing with you when you go hiking in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

11. In 1993, U.S. Senate approved NAFTA, a free trade agreement with the Mexico and the Canada.

12. Northeast is one of the areas in our country that is famous for the universities.

13. He works on Committee for Responsible Parenthood, which has done a great deal to reduce the child abuse in our community.

14. *Amadeus*, which was about composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, was one of best movies I have ever seen.

15. Carolyn bought some new software for her computer.

16. My aunt, who lives in the Minnesota, lost her home when Mississippi River flooded in 1993.

17. We saw movie with Virginia last night after having the dinner at Indian restaurant.

18. Aria loves to eat ice cream, but she has an allergy to dairy products.
