RECYCLING GRAMMAR

THE ARTICLE:
The correct use of articles is one of the most difficult points in English grammar. Fortunately most article mistakes do not matter too much.

1- Indefinite article

“a” /ə/ , /a/ , /ɑ/ 

a book
*an apple: an = before a vowel (but note “a university, a European, a Euro”)

Note:
- Give me a book / Give me one book (not the same)
- I paid him a hundred pounds = one hundred pounds
- Once a week, twice a month

2- Definite article

“the” /ðə/ , /ði/ 

“the “ has no plural form: the book / the books

* Note: I like the sherry (when speaking in general – no article is required)
- Books are expensive / He put the books on the shelf
- Life is hard / He’s studying the life of Shakespeare

Note:
- Last week / the last week in June
- I seldom watch TV / Where is the TV? (la televisión / el televisor)
- He lives in the USA, I am from the UK, the EU
- I put on my jacket, my head aches, I can’t find my keys
  parts of body, clothes, personal possessions)

OMISSION

We do not use “the” with the following:

1- sports and games
   I play tennis every week
2- subjects of study
   I studied mathematics
3- languages
   Japanese is a difficult language to learn
4- meals and clock times
   I had breakfast at about eight o’clock
5- preposition + noun
   Is he still at home? I went to work early
6- gerunds
   Hunting is very popular in the UK
7- institutions
   Manchester Airport, Cádiz University
Dear Monique,

We had great trip to the France last weekend. We went to little hotel that you recommended and it was very pleasant. Food at hotel wasn’t so good (as you warned us) but we strolled down to city centre on the Saturday evening and had lovely meal there. In fact, we ate so much for the dinner that we didn’t want a breakfast on the Sunday!

Thanks again for advice and information. Now I must unpack and do washing.

See you soon

Love,

Freda
PRONOMBRES INDEFINIDOS

some / any

Afirmative:

SOME - algún, algunos, algo de, (aunque generalmente no se traduce)

I have some books
I have some water

• Common error: the coffee is some hot

* We use some in questions if we expect the answer to be “Yes” and to offer
• e.g. “Would you like some tea?”

Negative / Interrogative:

ANY - ¿algún? / ningún

Have you any books?
I haven’t any money

• We can use any in affirmative clauses too: (cualquier)
“Any person can ride a bicycle, it’s easy.”

PRONOMBRES DEMONSTRATIVOS

This - este, esta, esto (plural – these)

That - ese, esa, eso, aquel, aquella (plural – those)