The Magic Article System ☺

Attention!!! Does not work for places or times ☹

3 categories:

1)   Unique: THE

Naturally unique: The sun, the internet, the dean, the Pope

4 Ways a thing becomes unique:

A) Ordinal numbers: the first, the fifth, etc.
B) Superlatives: the best, the fastest, the most stupid
C) The last, the only, the next, the right, the wrong, the main, the whole
D) Defined with OF or a relative pronoun (vztazne zajmeno)

> *OF*: The price of petrol, the result of a test, the meaning of this passage
> *Relative Pronoun*: The dog that/which bit me, the place where the masseur attacked me, the time when we were scared.

2)   One of many in the world: A/AN

This category includes containers and expressions of quantity:
A tube of toothpaste
A box of chocolates
A flock of sheep
A majority of Czechs
A lot of students
A series of films
A bunch of bananas

ATTENTION!!! The second time you mention a thing, it is already specific/unique, so use THE

3) Uncountable things: NO ARTICLE

Emotions (happiness, love, hatred)
Things in particles (rice, sugar, sand, dust)
Liquids (water, coffee)
Gases (oxygen, helium)

Most nouns formed from verbs
Swim – swimming
Collaborate – collaboration

For Plurals:

First time mentioned: NO ARTICLE
Second time/ defined with OF or a
RELATIVE PRONOUN: use THE