

# 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**