The Magic Article System ©

Attention!!! Does not work for places or times \otimes

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