**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:

1. Ordinal numbers: the first, the fifth, etc.
2. Superlatives: the best, the fastest, the most stupid
3. The last, the only, the next, the right, the wrong, the main, the whole
4. 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.

1. **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

1. **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