**Adrian’s 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, the centre

Four Ways a thing becomes unique:

* Ordinal numbers: the first, the fifth, etc.
* Superlatives: the best, the fastest, the most stupid
* The last, the only, the next, the right, the wrong, the main, the whole
* Defined with OF or a relative pronoun (vztažné zájmeno)

***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
    - An insane amount of work

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)
* -isms (communism, realism)
* Most nouns formed from verbs

Swim 🡪 swimming

Collaborate 🡪 collaboration

Extinguish 🡪 extinction

ATTENTION!!! The second time you mention an uncountable thing, it is already specific/unique, so use THE ☺ .   
Also if you are defining it with OF or a relative pronoun.

**For Plurals:**

First time mentioned: NO ARTICLE

Second time/ defined with OF or a RELATIVE PRONOUN: use THE