

# The PNS Rule

Helps you determine which article to use to introduce a noun.

- Definite articles : le, la, l', les
- Indefinite articles : un, une, des
- Partitive articles : du, de la, de l', des
- Negative construction : de, d'

Always ask these questions in this order. If the answer is YES, **STOP** and use the corresponding articles. If the answer is NO, ask the next question in the sequence.

1. **P**reference Verb ? => le, la, les, l'

aimer- to like (to love)  
 adorer- to adore  
 détester- to hate  
 préférer- to prefer

2. **N**egative ? => de, d'

ne...pas not  
 ne...personne no one  
 ne...rien nothing  
 ne...jamais never  
 ne...nulle part no where, nowhere  
 ne...plus no more, no longer

\*Exception : After the verb **être** un, une do **not** change to de.

3. **S**ome/any? => du, de la, des, de l'

4. a / an ? => un, une

*On Saturdays, I go to the movies OR I go to the movies on Saturdays.*  
*I need the red pen. (Not any of pen, the red pen.)*

**Do any other rules apply?** Is a day of the week being used to indicate repeated action? Is a specific noun being referred to? Use a definite article in both of these cases.

*Le samedi, je vais au cinéma.*  
*Il me saut le stylo rouge.*

\*Remember! Practice

- Nous préférons la pizza. *P? yes*
- Tu ne manges pas de glace? *P? no, A? yes*
- Moi, j'adore le lait au chocolat. *P? yes*
- Est-ce que tu as du sucre (sugar) pour le café? *P? no, A? no S? yes \**
- Donne-moi un crayon, s'il te plaît. *P? no A? no, S? no A/A? yes*
- J'ai faim. Je voudrais de la pizza. *P? no A? no S? yes*
- Donne-moi de la limonade, s'il te plaît. *P? no A? no S? yes*
- Le samedi nous jouons au basket. *P? no A? no S? no a/an? no what then? check for other rules or exceptions*
- Pourquoi est-ce que vous n'avez pas de livre? *P? no A? yes*
- Monsieur Dennis n'est pas un voisin. *P? no A? yes WAIT! Is the verb être? Yes! So, apply the exception.*

*OR: un, depending on context.*

**Summary:** Every noun is introduced by an article.

Which kind of article?

- P=> le, la, l', les
- N=> de/d'
- S=> du, de la, de l', des
- a/an un, une

Which form of the article? It depends on the noun.

- Is the noun... / Does the noun...
- Singular or plural?
- Masculine or feminine?
- Begin with a vowel sound?

*Knowing the number + gender of each article & the answers to these questions will guide you.*