

DEFINITENESS

- in discussing the use of articles (+ other determiners) we must distinguish btw. **GENERIC** and **NON-GENERIC (Q. SPECIFIC) reference**
 - **GENERIC** reference (NP refers to the whole class) *A tiger is a dangerous animal.*
 - **NON-GENERIC** reference (refers to a specific member of the class "tiger")
Look! This is a nice little tiger. :-)

REFERENCE - use of articles with common nouns

I. GENERIC

- when you refer generically to the members of the whole class
Cats are domestic animals. A/the cat is a dom. animal. A tiger/the tiger/tigers can be dangerous.

The generic use of the INDEF. ARTICLE:

- the use of *a/an* picks out **any representative member of the class**
- **A tiger is becoming almost extinct.* (but it is possible: *The tiger/Tigers..*)

The generic use of the ZERO ARTICLE:

- identifies the class as an **undifferentiated whole**
Cigarettes are bad for your health. Hunger and violence will continue to mark the future of mankind.

The generic use of the DEFINITE ARTICLE:

- indicates **the class as represented by its typical specimen**
No one knows precisely when the wheel was invented.

II. NON-GENERIC/SINGULATIVNÍ

a) INDEFINITE – a/an/ θ/some

- the referent is indefinite, mostly because it is mentioned for the first time

- **specific** – the referent is specific/concrete, first-mention
There was a car accident near Prague last night. (The accident ...)
- **non-specific** – the referent is not specific
Have you ever had a car accident? Yes, I had (an accident).

b) DEFINITE – the

1. SITUATIONAL reference

*Put it on the chair. Mind the step. The roses are beautiful. (said in a garden)
the Prime Minister, the Pope, the Queen, the last war, the moon, the stars,
the North Pole, the sun*

CONTEXTUAL (LINGUISTIC) REFERENCE (= means of cohesion):

2. ANAPHORIC (acc. to Quirk: Direct anaphoric reference) = **pointing backwards**

*I got a book. The book...
I discussed an interesting project with Bill. The project should be ...*

3. ANAPHORIC ASSOCIATIVE (acc. to Quirk: Indirect anaphoric reference)

- refers to referents associated with a particular action/event...
*I went to a wedding. The bride ... The feast ...
A concert.....the programme, the audience, the conductor, the oboe*

4. CATAPHORIC = **pointing forwards**

- refers to sth that will follow (not precedes X anaphoric ref.)
- includes cases where the **noun phrase is** postmodified:
*the bottom of the sea, the roof of the house, the wines of France
The boy (that/who/θ) I saw ... The key I have been looking for...
The wines that France produces, the fact that he has won....
the river Thames, the month of December, the name Elisabeth*

5. LOGICAL – refers to **logically only 1 referent** (referent is unique)

the next station, the first, the best friend

[6. SPORADIC] - *the* is used in reference to an **institution of human society** – institution which can be observed recurrently at various places and times

*She often goes to the theatre. I heard it on the radio. the paper(s), the press,
What's on (the) TV tonight? take the bus/the train to London, use the email, the telephone*