A/an si usa quando chi parla o chi ascolta (o entrambi) non sono a conoscenza in modo specifico della cosa di cui si sta parlando (Have you got a car?). The si usa quando sia chi parla sia chi ascolta sanno specificamente di che cosa si sta parlando (I’m going to wash the car.).

Si omette l’articolo quando si parla di qualcosa in senso generale (I love pizza.).

Ci sono casi specifici in cui si usa a/an, the o si omette l’articolo (He’s a teacher. I’ve got a headache. I play the piano. The Egyptians invented paper. What time is dinner? I don’t like yellow.).

1 Completa le frasi con a/an o the.

0. A What does your dad do?
   B He’s a lawyer.

1. A Have you got a laptop?
   B Yes, I have.

2. A Which is your coat?
   B It’s a red one over there on the sofa.

3. A Here’s money I borrowed from you last week.
   B Oh, thanks.

4. A Does your country have a king or queen?
   B No, it’s a republic so it has a president.

5. A Do you play a musical instrument?
   B Yes, I play the piano.

6. A We’re going to see a film tonight. Do you want to come?
   B Which one?
   A Oh, a new one with Johnny Depp. I can’t remember its name of it. We’re meeting outside the ABC cinema at 7.30.

7. A Have you got a computer games console?
   B Yes, I’ve got two. I’ve got an old one and a new one. I prefer the new one. These games are better.

8. A We stayed in a fantastic hotel in Paris. The food was amazing, and it had a swimming pool on the roof.
   B What was the name of the hotel? I’ll tell my parents. They’re thinking of going to Paris for a few days in summer.

2 Completa le frasi con the o – (se non c’è bisogno dell’articolo).

0. A Do you enjoy the school?
   B Yes, I do. The lessons are fun.

1. A Would you like a coffee?
   B Yes, thanks.

2. A Do you take milk and sugar?
   B Just milk, please.

3. A What’s your favourite colour?
   B Blue.

4. A Is tulip the national flower of the UK?
   B No, it’s rose.

5. A Does your brother live at home?
   B No, he’s at university in Rome. He’s studying chemistry.

6. A What kind of music do you listen to?
   B Well, 90% of the time I listen to rock. Mostly bands like Green Day and Nirvana. But I occasionally listen to classical music.

3 Completa le informazioni sul Regno Unito con a/an, the o – (se non c’è bisogno dell’articolo).

UK facts

0. The population of the UK is about 60 million.

1. London is the capital city of the United Kingdom. It is in the south-east of the country and has an area of 1,600 km².

2. London has a population of about eight million. It is the biggest city in Europe and the 25th largest city in the world.

3. The UK is a constitutional monarchy, which means it has a monarch. King or Queen lives in Buckingham Palace in the centre of London.

4. The UK also has a Prime Minister, who is the leader of the government. The Prime Minister lives at number 10 Downing Street.

5. The highest mountain in the UK is Ben Nevis in Scotland. The longest river is the Thames, which flows through London.

6. Football is the national sport. England won the World Cup in 1966. Rugby and cricket are also very popular in the UK.

7. The main celebration in the UK is Christmas. Traditionally, families get together and buy each other presents.

8. The UK is generally quite expensive and everyday expenses such as clothes, food and travel generally cost more than in the rest of Europe.

9. British children go to school from the age of 5 to 16. About 25% stay at school for another two years and then go to university.