

English Language and Research: the Most Common Traps

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Agenda

- ▶ About Me
- ▶ English Tools
- ▶ Teaching Experience
- ▶ Common Trap: Articles
- ▶ Common Trap: Prepositions
- ▶ Common Trap: Countable Nouns
- ▶ Common Trap: Transitional Phrases

About Me

- ▶ English Teaching Assistant, Fulbright Program
- ▶ Wyższa Szkoła Filologiczna (WSF) in Wrocław, Poland
- ▶ BS in Organizational Change from Northwestern University
- ▶ Higher Education Analyst at Huron Consulting

English Tools

- ▶ More than just theory and conversation
- ▶ Learn about a culture
- ▶ Interact with natives
- ▶ Go abroad and find a job
- ▶ Engage in intercultural communication
- ▶ Write and take part in research



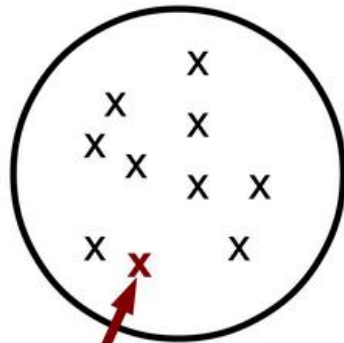
Teaching Experience

- ▶ Not an easy language to learn
- ▶ Idioms, phrases, nuances
- ▶ Trial-and-error process
- ▶ Putting theory into practice

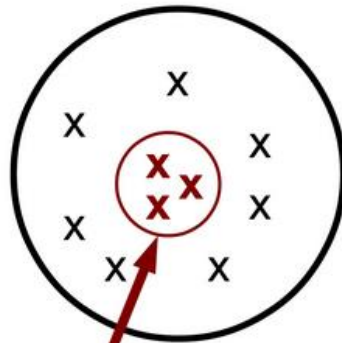


Articles

- ▶ Indefinite versus definite articles
- ▶ No Polish equivalent
- ▶ Indefinite (a or an): noun where specific identity is unknown
 - ▶ "a": consonant
 - ▶ "an": vowel
- ▶ Definite (the): nouns that are familiar



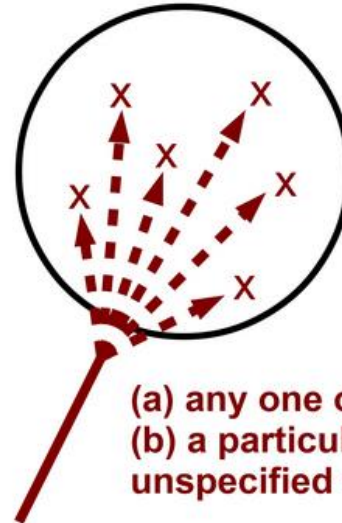
(a) one specific item, distinguished from others



(b) group of items, distinguished from other items

the

- a) **The lecture** this morning was boring.
- b) **The red apples** are sweeter than **the green ones**.



(a) any one of a set
(b) a particular but unspecified thing.

a / an

- a) I need **a** new **car**.
- b) **A** **bird** sat upon **an** **olive tree**.

Prepositions

- ▶ Over 150 prepositions in English language
- ▶ “In a restaurant” vs. “At a restaurant”
- ▶ Interchangeable
- ▶ Regional variations



Countable Nouns

- ▶ Countable nouns: able to count using numbers
 - ▶ “How many?”
- ▶ Uncountable nouns: single concept or idea; not countable
- ▶ Unable to quantify and less tangible in English
- ▶ Information, advice, math

Transitional Phrases

- ▶ Dependency in writing
- ▶ Confirm relations
- ▶ Makes writing sound more professional
- ▶ Wordiness vs. efficiency

