

Unit 54: THE CORRECT ARTICLE

Which do you use?	a / an / some / any?	some	girls
	the?	the	girls
	nothing at all?		girls

Here are some examples to help you.

1

Oranges are expensive at this time of year.

(All oranges)

I like **oranges**.

(In general)

I'd like **some oranges**, please.

(I'm not saying which.)

How much are **the oranges**?

(... in this shop)

Have you got **any oranges**?

(It does not matter which.)

She bought **some cheap oranges**.

(We don't know about any other oranges.)

There were two kinds of oranges in the shop. She bought **the cheap ones**.

(I am saying which.)

2

Information about it is difficult to get.

(In general)

He gave me **some information**.

(I am not saying which.)

He gave me **some good information**.

(I am saying what kind but I am still not saying which.)

The information which he gave me was very helpful.

(I am saying which.)

If you can give me **any information** at all, it will be very helpful.

(I am not saying which.)

3

John goes to **school** now.

(We are not interested in which.)

It is **a very good school**.

(I am describing a type of school.)

It's **the best school** in town.

(There is only one.)

4

There was **a man** and **a woman** at the door. **The man** was very fat and **the woman** was very thin.

(In the second sentence, we know which man and which woman.)