



Mac and Rory Grammar Stories Lesson Plan – A Or The (The Golden Ticket)

1. Lesson Aim

The aim of this lesson is to help students to talk about:

- specific things or things in general
- something for the first time and then refer to it afterwards
- specific places

2. Warm-Up

Get a prize (for example, a new pen or a book). Cut up some pieces of paper to look like tickets. Make sure you have enough tickets for each of your students. Make one ticket the “winning” ticket. Put the tickets in a bag.

Start your class by saying...

- I have a bag with tickets in it.
- Please take a ticket out of the bag.
- Don't look at the ticket until everyone has a ticket.
- Now, please look at the ticket in your hand.
- Does anyone have the winning ticket?
- Well done! You have won a prize!

- What is the prize?

- The prize is a...

Always emphasize with your voice the words “a” and “the”.

Today we are looking at “a” and “the”. Did you notice how we used “a” when we talked about the ticket for the first time? Then when we knew we were talking about a specific ticket, we used “the”? OK, so let's see how Mac and Rory use “a” and “the”.

3. Reading The Mac And Rory Grammar Story

Read the *Mac and Rory Grammar Story – A Or The*. You can either bring students through the online version or hand out the paper version. If you are using the paper version, ask for volunteers to play the roles of Mac and Rory and get them to read the story aloud.

4. Vocabulary

Read the Glossary at the end of the story. Check that your students understand all the words and phrases.

5. Story Discussion

Go through each picture of the *Mac and Rory Grammar Story*, asking questions and explaining the grammar points as you go.

We use "a" in front of a noun when there is one of something or someone.

If a noun starts with a, i, e, o or u we use "an".

- an apple
- an ear
- an idea
- an onion
- an umbrella

Paul is talking about a specific shop – the one near their school, so he uses "the". We use "the" when we talk about a specific thing or person.

For example...

I got a new Playstation game. It took all night to download but the game is really good.

- a new game (there are many games and I downloaded one of them)
- the game (that I downloaded) is really good

There are many bags of "Tasto" crisps. The boys just want a bag of "Tasto" each. They don't want a specific bag. Any bag of "Tasto" will do. So they use "a".



There are many tickets and prizes. Rory has found one ticket and with one prize so he uses "a".

Paul uses "the" because now they are talking about the specific prize that Rory has just found.

Here, Rory uses "the" instead of "a" because he's talking about a specific bag of "Tasto" which he has in his hand.

Paul uses "the" for "ticket" because he is talking about the ticket that was in the bag of crisps. He's talking about a specific ticket.

Here, Rory uses "a" because he introduces the idea of a trip.

We don't generally use "a" or "the" for places, so Rory says, "...go to Tasto Park!"

- We live in Dublin.
- Let's go to Buenos Aires.
- We want to see Athens.
- We've been to Tokyo.
- I've been to Disneyland.



We use "a" here because the bus is new to the story.

Sometimes, we don't use "the". For example...

- I have lunch with my friends.
- After dinner, we watched TV.
- We go to school every day.
- He's tired so he's going to bed.
- She's going home now.
- They eat bread for breakfast.

6. Practice Sheet

Ask your students to complete *the Mac And Rory Grammar Story Practice Sheet*.

7. True Or False

Divide your class into groups of three or four. Get some unusual objects (or pictures of objects) that the students would not recognise*.

Distribute the objects (or pictures of the objects) to each group, telling them what the object is. Then ask each group to write a description of the object, and ask some groups to invent an untrue description of the object. Then each group presents their object to the class. The rest of the class has to decide if their description of the object is true or false.

For example: This is a brush used to clean a horse's teeth.

9. Homework

Ask your students to write a short story – a very short story. In the story, use “a” and “the”. For example,...

I see a man. He has a hat and a bag. The man comes nearer. Oh, I see, the man is my Dad!

*recognise (UK English) recognize (US English)
crisps (UK English) potato chips (US English)

10. Summary And Finish

Ask your students if anyone can tell you when you use “a” and when you use “the”. Ask anyone for examples of each. When you've 3 examples of each, you can let your students go home.

11. Extra Activities

Dictation

Rory found a ticket in a bag of crisps! The ticket is for a prize. The prize is a trip for two families to a theme park. That prize is fantastic, Rory!

Sentence Jumble

Type some sentences. Print copies of a few pages. Cut up the pages so you have a single word on each piece of paper. Divide your class into groups. Give out the pieces of paper and ask the groups to form sentences from the different words. The group with the most correct sentences wins.

Here are some example sentences you can use:

- Rory finds a ticket in a bag of crisps.
- Mac is talking to a friend.
- Rory and Marcus buy crisps.
- The prize is a trip to a theme park.
- Mac finds the ticket.