

NEW / GENERAL INFORMATION VS GIVEN / SPECIFIC INFORMATION

NOUN			DETERMINER		
			a / an	Ø	the
N(countable)	<i>singular</i>	oil company	√	x	√
	<i>plural</i>	oil companies	x	√	√
N (uncountable)		petroleum	x	√	√
			NEW / GENERAL INFORMATION		SPECIFIC / GIVEN INFORMATION

e.g.

For the first time, **a Spanish oil company** is to explore offshore oil blocks in Equatorial Guinea.

Just as **governments** like the US and the UK need **oil companies** to secure **fuel** for their global war-making capacity, so the oil companies need their governments' military power to secure control over **global oilfields** and **transportation routes**.

Oil provides nearly all the energy for **transportation** (cars, trucks, buses airplanes, and many railroad engines).

Petroleum is called a fossil fuel because it was made from the remains of **plants** and **animals**.

The puppet Iraqi government will certainly facilitate the selling of Iraq 's wealthy resources to **the oil companies** that have patiently waited for the right moment to gobble up the largest reserves of oil in the world outside of Saudi Arabia .

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Shell, **the oil company** that recently trumpeted its commitment to a low carbon future by signing a pre-Bali conference communiqué, has quietly sold off most of its solar business.

More than 80 percent of **the petroleum** that the refinery processes comes via pipeline from Saudi Arabia.

EXERCISE I

NOUN GROUPS: NEW / GENERAL INFORMATION VS GIVEN / SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Complete the mission statement with *a, an, Ø, or the*.

(1)..... OPEC's mission is to coordinate and unify (2) petroleum policies of (3) Member Countries and ensure (4) stabilization of (5)oil markets in order to secure (6) efficient, economic and regular supply of (7) petroleum to (8)consumers, (9) steady income to (10) producers and (11) fair return on (12) capital to those investing in (13) petroleum industry.

Source: www.opec.org