

## 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

New information is information that is being presented for the first time. General information is information that does not specify a particular thing. Any one of what is being talked about is implied.

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**.

Given and specific information is information that the reader can retrieve from the context. The context may be the context of culture (e.g. the sun), the context of situation (e.g. Put the dog outside), or the context of the preceding or following text. In other words, it is already known by the reader.

In *Iraq*, blood is cheaper than oil. Over a million Iraqis have died in the last 6 years since **the oil tycoon** Georges Bush Junior invaded **the country** in an imperial military exercise designed to balkanize Babylon and to confiscate its natural resources.

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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*,  $\emptyset$ , 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](http://www.opec.org)