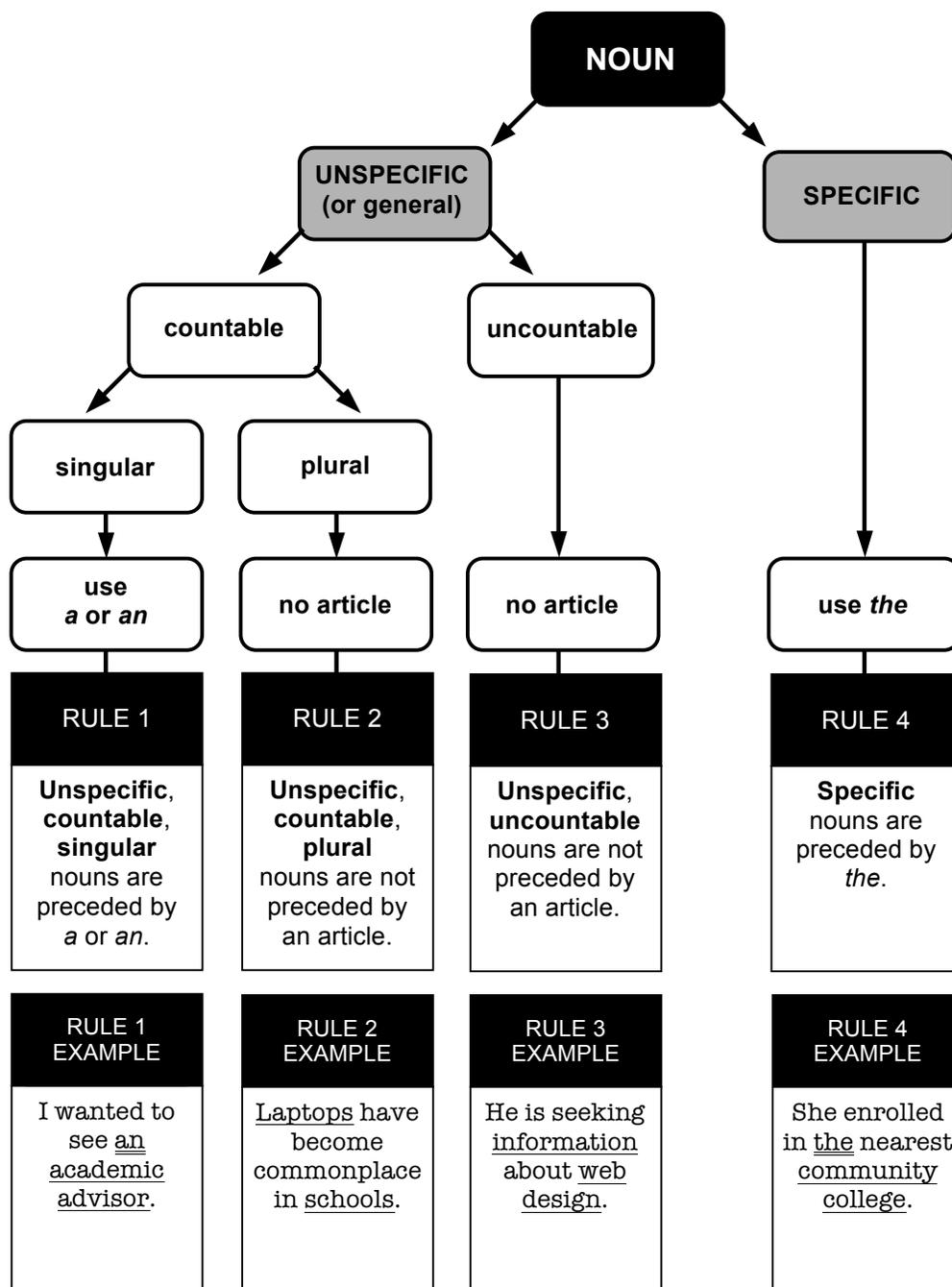


quicktips

USING AN ARTICLES CHART with COMMON NOUNS

Common nouns sometimes need an article. Along with our quicktip, “Articles: Choosing *a/an*, *the*, or nothing (Ø) with common nouns,” this chart may provide a convenient way for you to more methodically—and successfully—use articles with common nouns in your own writing.



GLOSSARY

common noun
 a word that represents a person, place, or thing but is not the name of that person, place, or thing

unspecific noun
 a person, place, or thing that does not have a unique identity or is being mentioned for the first time in a text

specific noun
 a person, place, or thing that has a defined identity—e.g., it has already been mentioned in the text; it is followed by modifying information that makes it specific; it is unique; and so on

countable noun
 a person, place, or thing that can be marked as either singular or plural

uncountable noun
 a person, place, or thing that can only be marked as singular, not plural

For additional examples and information, see a grammar book designed for non-native speakers of English.