French Grammar Express- Using Articles

What is an article?

A little word that is placed before a noun.

I will buy **a** cake — indefinite article

→ There is no definite information about the cake.

The cake I made — definite article

→ A specific cake; the one I made.

I ate **some** cake — partitive article

→ A certain quantity of cake; a part of it

Remember de/d'

In negative sentences:

Indefinite/partitive article (some)

Je mange **du** chocolat.
I eat (some) chocolate.
→ Je ne mange **pas de** chocolat.
I don't eat (any) chocolate.

Je prends **de la** salade.
I take (some) salad.
→ Je ne prends **jamais de** salade.
I never take (any) salad.

J'achète **des** carottes
I buy (some) carrots
→ Je n'achète **pas de** carottes.
I don't buy (any) carrots.

Je bois **de l'** eau.
I drink (some) water
→ Je ne bois **pas d'** eau.
I don't drink (any) water.

Golden Rule: There is ALWAYS an article before a noun in French.

vie **(f)** = *life*   chocolat **(m)** = *chocolate*   eau **(f)** = *water*   chat **(m)** = *cat*

Definite article (*the*)

life is beautiful.
la vie est belle.

I love **chocolate**.
J'adore **le** chocolat.

I like **cats**.
J'aime **les** chat**s**.

Indefinite/partitive article (*some*)

Do you want *(some)* **water**?
Tu veux **de l'**eau?

I eat *(some)* **chocolate**.
Je mange **du** chocolat.

→ If you can use '**some**' (implied) in English you MUST use it in French.

French articles:

Type of article	Before a noun that is ...		
	Masculine	**Feminine**	**Plural**
Indefinite *(a, some)*	**un** [ɛ̃]	**une** [ʊn]	**des** [deh]
Definite *(the)*	**le** [luh]	**la** [lah]	**les** [leh]
	l' [l] *before a **vowel** or **h***		
Partitive *(some of it, some)*	**du** [dʊ]	**de la** [duhlah]	**des** [deh]
	de l' [duhl] *before a **vowel** or **h***		
***Negatives : de** [duh] **or d'** [d]			