

“Other” vs. “Another” Difference.- Let's review the grammar rules for another, other, and the other:

**another** + *singular nonspecific countable noun*

Examples:

1. "Let's meet another day."
2. "I'd like another piece of cake."

The nouns ("day" and "piece") in both sentences are countable and singular (e.g. not with an 's') nouns.

The nouns in both sentences are also not specific. This means that the speaker doesn't care which day or piece of cake he gets; he just wants a different one. He wants another one, but he hasn't said (or it isn't clear or important) which one.

Hint: If you understand English articles ("a/an/the"), then think of "another" as "an + other." You can use "another" before a noun whenever you can use "a(n)" before a noun. The rules are the same.

Another = an other!

**other** + *plural or uncountable nonspecific noun*

Examples:

1. "Other people have problems, too." [people = plural noun]
2. "This book has other information." [information = uncountable noun]

The nouns in both sentences are **not specific**, just like with "another". The speaker doesn't specify *which* other people have problems, or *what* other information the book has. The rules are the same as "another" except that "other" is used before **plural** or **uncountable** nouns.

Hint: If we think about articles (a/an/the) again, then remember that we use "other" before a noun that would NOT need an article.

**the other** + *specific noun (singular, plural, countable or uncountable)*

Examples:

1. "I have two brothers. One of them lives in Canada. The other brother lives in Japan."
2. "I go to school on Monday and Thursday. I work on the other days of the week."

The nouns ("brother" & "days") in both sentences are **specific**.

Re: Example #1: What brother lives in Japan? The other brother. The speaker said he has two brothers. He told you where the first brother lives, so the other brother must be his second brother. This is a **specific** brother (not general). You know what brother he is talking about.

Re: Example #2: What days of the week does he work on? Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. The speaker said he goes to school on Monday and Thursday. You know that the other days of the week are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. So the speaker says "**the** other" because it is **clear** what other days of the week he works on. **Specifically**, they are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Hint: Thinking about articles again, the rules for "the other" are the same as the rules for "the" + noun.

Complete using **other**, **another**, **the other**.

Three of my friends live in Boston. One is a doctor, one is a dentist, and \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't have a job. The friend without a job's name is Craig. Craig needs a job. He also has \_\_\_\_\_ problem: he needs a new girlfriend. His last girlfriend left him because she met \_\_\_\_\_ man. \_\_\_\_\_ man was rich and handsome. I told Craig not to worry about it; there are many \_\_\_\_\_ girls in the world.

## Answers

Three of my friends live in Boston. One is a doctor, one is a dentist, and **the other** doesn't have a job. The friend without a job's name is Craig. Craig needs a job. He also has **another** problem: he needs a new girlfriend. His last girlfriend left him because she met **another man**. **The other** man was rich and handsome. I told Craig not to worry about it; there are many **other** girls in the world.