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百度知道>提示信息 知道宝贝找不到问题了> 提示信息 知道宝贝找不到问题了> 提示信息 知道宝贝找不到问题了> I think the idea behind omitting the article is the same in both languages. When you're talking about role it's not just a separate verb anymore, it's an idea of "playing guitar" as a whole action. Like you can't answer to "What does he do in your band?" just "He plays" or "He plays an instrument". Well, you can, but that's not what is expected from you, unless you're Leslie Nielsen) Last edited by a moderator: May 15, 2022 in BrE, you generally use the definite article with a musical instrument: Jane plays the violin. You omit the article when you are talking about someone's role in a band, orchestra or any musical group: Jane plays second violin in the chamber orchestra, Jack plays bass in the church band. You can also omit the article when it is an object of study: Jane studied violin in the conservatory. With differences even within English, I think a comparison with German will not take you very far. Hi @natkretep Playing _ guitar is not easy Here I'm making a general statement. I'm not talking about any specific guitar. Should I use "the" here or not, please? Yes, I would. The refers to the instrument (as opposed to the violin or the flute), not a specific guitar. If the context is a band, then you can omit the. You're talking about your role in the group. Hello, The below is an excerpt from Wikipedia, but the use of the indefinite article before "guitar" confuses me. "Whitley learned to play a guitar at a very young age, and became involved with a regional television show when he was eight years old."[ref] Isn't it supposed to be "the"? As far as I know, "the" must be placed before the name of an instrument. (Except when you say something like, "I want to buy a new guitar.") Also, I've noticed that some people omit "the" and simply say "to play guitar." Is there any difference between "to play the guitar" and "to play guitar"? Thank you. In my experience both "play the guitar" and "play guitar" are found in American English. "Play the guitar" is the most common. But play A guitar...that would only be used if one was referring, oddly enough, to a particular guitar, even though "a" is the indefinite form and "the" is the definite form. You could say something like, "he learned to play a guitar that he found up in the attic." But you would not use "play a guitar" to describe the general activity of playing guitar or playing the guitar. I learned to use definite article 'the' with musical instruments at school. In real life, however, I've heard from some native speakers of English saying that they play guitar or keyboards, etc. (without 'the). I'm quite involved in music as a film-maker but also teach English as a foreign language, however, I can't explain to my students why 'Keith plays guitar in a rock band' is not correct (Keith is a professional musician by the way). Another problem is that most EFL teachers teach learners countable and uncountable nouns in English. 'Guitar' is a countable noun, and a student of mine has asked me recently why, 'I play a guitar' is incorrect, although 'guitar' is a countable noun. Can anyone explain? Karl from Indiestanbul said: I learned to use definite article 'the' with musical instruments at school. In real life, however, I've heard from some native speakers of English saying that they play guitar or keyboards, etc. (without 'the). I'm quite involved in music as a film-maker but also teach English as a foreign language, however, I can't explain to my students why 'Keith plays guitar in a rock band' is not correct (Keith is a professional musician by the way). There is nothing wrong with saying "Keith plays guitar in a rock band" as a sentence about Keith's role in the band. Karl from Indiestanbul said: Another problem is that most EFL teachers teach learners countable and uncountable nouns in English. 'Guitar' is a countable noun, and a student of mine has asked me recently why, 'I play a guitar' is incorrect, although 'guitar' is a countable noun. Can anyone explain? "I play a guitar" is a valid statement, but it does not say the same thing as "I play guitar" or "I play the guitar". It may be just me, but I think it may vary from instrument to instrument. I used to play the piano; I now play ukulele. American English usage at this point is inconsistent, even if the "rule" is, or used to be, "use the". I do play the piano, and I play the organ, and I once studied (unhappily, and briefly) the cello (violoncello, to be formal). But people often ask me "you play piano, right?". And when someone asks me what instrument I play, I'm liable to simply answer "piano", and I'm sure no one I know well would note the inconsistency. I'm a classical musician but my origins are not upper class, even if classical music is still thought, in some circles, to be "elite". I suspect, but cannot prove, that when instruments are played in a more "classical" musical context you are more likely to hear "the", but when the music is pop or folk you are more likely not to. When talking about members of a pop music group you'll hear "George plays bass, Frank guitar, and Mary is on the drums," ("on the" is another variant). So, I suspect classical guitarists are more likely to play the guitar and rock musicians are more likely to play guitar, at least in the U.S., rock bands are not known for the consistent use of formal speech. There is a similar inconsistency when talking about who sings what voice part in a choir or other singing group. You can hear "Jim is a tenor" or "Jim sings the tenor part", but as a (former) choir director, I have often asked in rehearsal, confused about what I'm hearing, "who's singing tenor?"; it's faster and it's clear. My choir also included Norwegians and Americans of Norwegian origin, and, as far as the piano, in Norwegian it's "Jeg spiller piano", with no article, so the people in my choir would have been more likely to accept omitting the article; we often forget that American usage contains remnants of other grammars, depending on the region of the country, ethnic origins, and class. And there's the Carl Perkins (i.e. popular or country western) song that includes the lyrics: "Daddy sang bass (mama sang tenor) Me and little brother would join right in there Singin' seems to help a troubled soul One of these days and it won't be long I'll rejoin them in a song I'm gonna join the family circle at the throne." The most important thing about it, for me, is that singing (and playing piano/the piano) helps a troubled soul, with or without an article. It's of no use to appeal the case to a higher court. It's of no use appealing the case to a higher court. ----- Could the second sentence be correct English? Thank you. Could the second sentence be correct English? I don't think so. Appealing the case to a higher court is technically a noun phrase, headed by a gerund. As such, it can be replaced by a pronoun: It's of no use this. To get it right, the order needs to be reversed: Appealing the case to a higher court is of no use. This is of no use. I don't think so. Appealing the case to a higher court is technically a noun phrase, headed by a gerund. As such, it can be replaced by a pronoun: It's of no use this. To get it right, the order needs to be reversed: Appealing the case to a higher court is of no use. This is of no use. Your reply really works. Thank you. We'd say, "It's no use . . ." Usually we use 'it's no use + gerund: It's no use appealing the case It's no use crying over spilled milk... "It's (of) no use + gerund". As EStarn says, if you include the "of" it's more formal. Random House Dictionary gives the following definition and examples: of no use of no advantage or help: It's of no use to look for that missing earring. It's no use asking her to go. Also, no use. That's how I thought it worked: It's of no use + full infinitive OR It's no use + gerund. These are the Google Books counts: it's no use appealing (99) it's of no use appealing (2) it's of no use to appeal (2) it is no use appealing (6.460) it is of no use appealing (62) it is of no use to appeal (1.650) The relatively low numbers of hits for it's/it is of no use appealing - approx. 1/100 compared with those for it's/it is no use appealing - suggest that it could be a case where two formats have, erroneously, been mixed up. More member input on this would be welcome. That's how I use them, EStjarn. If you search for "it's of no use crying" or "it's of no use trying" in GoogleBooks, you'll find quite a few examples. Many of the authors were active in the 19th century, though. I don't think so. Appealing the case to a higher court is technically a noun phrase, headed by a gerund. As such, it can be replaced by a pronoun: It's of no use this. To get it right, the order needs to be reversed: Appealing the case to a higher court is of no use. This is of no use. Have you looked up entries for pointless, worthwhile, and useless? Gerund forms are correct following "it is + adj." When we use a contracted verb, the less formal version without "of" seems to be the more natural choice. It is of no use to do... It's no use doing... What's at issue is whether "it's of no use" is followed by a to-infinitive or gerund phrase. Here's an example by Charles Dickens: 'It's of no use asking the dragon,' thought Dick one day, as he sat contemplating the features of Miss Sally Brass. Haven't you found examples of both being used? It's of no use appealing the case to a higher court. This sentence doesn't sound natural to me (in today's English). I see you found a good example with the infinitive here: it is (of) no use Last edited: Apr 12, 2022 It isn't normal usage nowadays, so it sounds oddly stilted. Some will say it sounds unnatural. I wouldn't have gone so far as to say that it is no longer correct. It's a more formal style than "It's no use attempting to influence..." The historical example you found was: But English philosopher John Stuart Mill once wrote, "To think that because those who wield power in society wield in the end that of government, therefore it is of no use to attempt to influence the constitution of the government by acting on opinion, is to forget that opinion is itself one of the greatest active social forces."