**Articles:**

Articles are words that define a noun as specific or unspecific. There are two types of articles:

**1. Definite article (The):** for specific things

**2. Indefinite articles (a, an)** for general things

**Examples:**

After **the** long day, **the** cup of tea tasted particularly good.

By using the article **the**, we’ve shown that it was one specific day that was long and one specific cup of tea that tasted good.

After **a** long day, **a** cup of tea tastes particularly good.

By using the article **a**, we’ve created a general statement, implying that any cup of tea would taste good after any long day.

English has two types of articles: **definite and** [**indefinite**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/indefinite-articles-a-and-an/). Let’s discuss them now in more detail.

**The Definite Article**

[The definite article is the word “**the**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/geographical-use-the/)”. It limits the meaning of a noun to one particular thing. For example, your friend might ask, “Are you going to **the** party this weekend?” The definite article tells you that your friend is referring to a specific party that both of you know about. The definite article can be used with singular, [plural](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/articles-with-plural-nouns/), or uncountable nouns. Below are [some examples](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/articles-with-plural-nouns/) of the definite article the used in context:

Please give me **the** hammer.

Please give me **the** red hammer; **the** blue one is too small.

Please give me **the** nail.

Please give me **the** large nail; it’s **the** only one strong enough to hold this painting.

Please give me **the** hammer and **the** nail.

## The Indefinite Article

The indefinite article takes two forms. It’s the word **a** when it precedes a word that begins with a consonant.

It’s the word **an** when it precedes a word that begins with a vowel.

[The indefinite article](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/indefinite-articles-a-and-an/) indicates that a noun refers to a general idea rather than a particular thing.

For example, you might ask your friend, “Should I bring **a** gift to the party?”

Your friend will understand that you are not asking about a specific type of gift or a specific item.

“I am going to bring **an** apple pie,” your friend tells you. Again, the indefinite article indicates that he or she is not talking about a specific apple pie. Your friend probably doesn’t even have any pie yet. The indefinite article only appears with singular nouns. Consider the following examples of indefinite articles used in context:

Please hand me **a** book; any book will do.

Please hand me **an** autobiography; any autobiography will do.