



IIT Madras

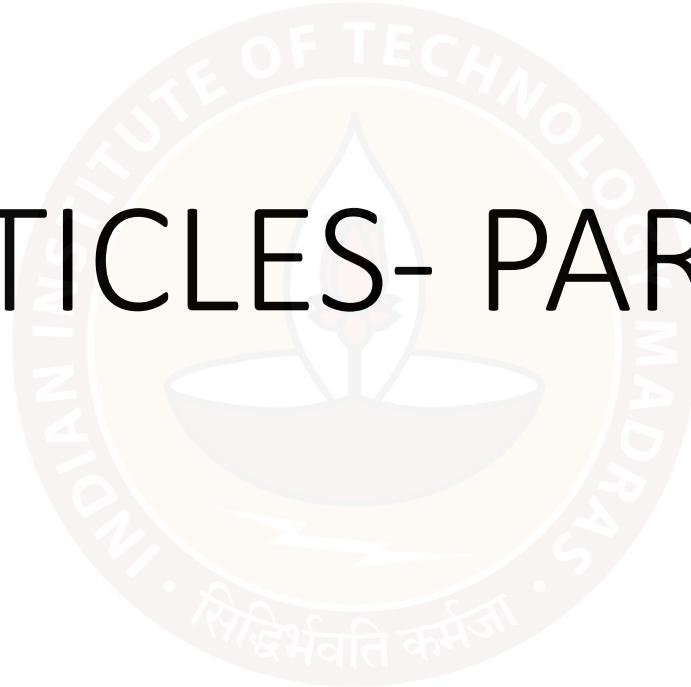
BSc Degree

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ARTICLES- PART 2



Uses of The:

1. Before a class noun which is already known to the listener or the reader.

- I saw a snake. The snake was a cobra.
- The book you gave me is missing.
(You gave me a book. The book is missing).

2. Before a class noun to refer to the whole class. Note: the articles a/an can also be used.

- The crow is black. (A crow is black.)
- The elephant has a trunk.

3. Before a proper noun in figurative sense.

- Kalidas is the Shakespeare of India.

4. Before surnames when more than one person is referred to.

- The Chettiar live next my house.
- The Smiths are coming.

5. Before the nouns that are only one (unique reference) – the sun, the moon, the earth, the prime minister, the president, the milky way etc.

- The sun rises in the east.
- The prime minister is arriving today.

6. Before material noun in specific sense. That is the material noun is specified and excluded from the rest.

- The water of the Ganga
- The rice of Dehradun.

7. Before the names of rivers, lakes, seas, oceans, group of islands, mountain ranges, newspapers, ships and some classical books

- The Nile/ The Ganga/ The Chilka lake/ The Arabian sea/The Andaman and Nicobar islands/ The Himalayas/The Times of India/ The Hindu/ The Bible/The Mahabharat.

7. Before a noun which is followed by the preposition “of”.

- The front of my house
- The pages of my diary

Exception: Not in the case of noun in apposition

- Arundhati Roy, author of “The God of Small Things”, has become a political activist.
- Mr. Arjun, owner of this house, is my friend.

8. Before an adjective in superlative degree

- She is the brightest girl in the class.
- This is one of the most interesting books I have ever read.

9. With comparative degree when there is an increase or decrease in activity.

- The more he received, the more he wanted.
- The sooner you start, the better for you.

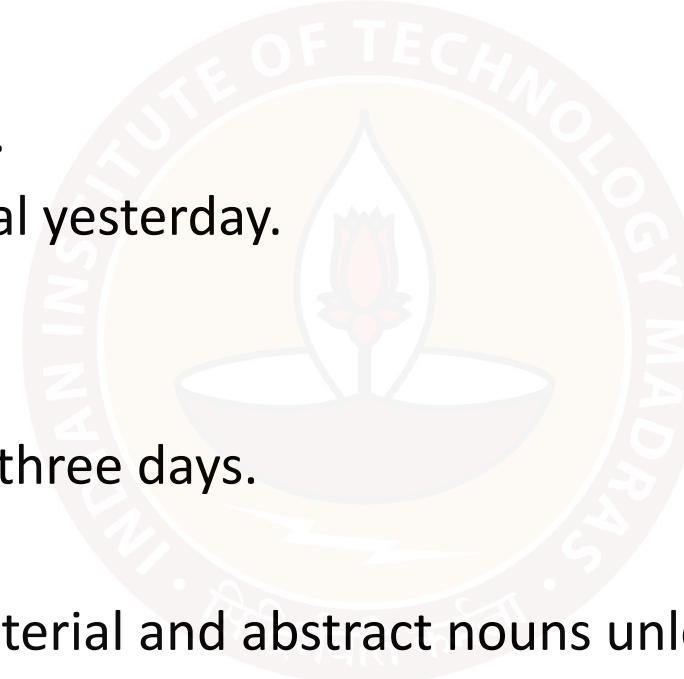
Fill in the blanks with a/an / the in the given sentences:

- a) ----- seeds you sowed last week have sprung up.
- b) ----- bird was flying leisurely in the sky.
- c) It is such ----- difficult task that only ----- few are capable of doing it.
- d) Look at ----- sky; there are ----- sun and ----- moon shining together.
- e) He had ----- lot of money.
- f) You can't deny ----- fact that this revolver is yours.
- g) Are you going to see ----- world cup match in West Indies?
- h) Will you send ----- mechanic to repair my car?
- i) They have left me in ----- unsettling phase.
- j) ----- prime minister asked his ministers to arrive at ----- unanimous decision.

Zero Articles

1. No article is used before the following class nouns when they are part of daily routine. (Home, church, temple, hospital, masjid/prison/work/sea/town/market/ railway station/ bus/ train/bed/court/college/university/office/father and mother.

- He is going home.
- I go to church every Sunday.
- She was admitted to hospital yesterday.
- Father is out of station.
- Mother is in the kitchen.
- He was confined to bed for three days.



2. No article is used before material and abstract nouns unless they are specified.

- He bought five bars of gold.
- The small child needs care.

Fill in the blanks with a/an in the given sentences:

- a) I saw ----- white tiger in the zoo.
- b) Let us have our lunch in ----- hotel.
- c) She gave me ----- one hundred rupee note.
- d) He met ----- European in Chennai.
- e) He is ----- M.S. from Harvard University.
- f) This is ----- university in Jhansi.
- g) I know Shankar is ----- honest man.
- h) The gift is ----- honour to me.
- i) They broke ----- stone with ----- large hammer.
- j) It was ----- unanimous decision.

Fill in the blanks with a/an in the given sentences:

- a) I saw ----- white tiger in the zoo. (a)
- b) Let us have our lunch in ----- hotel. (a)
- c) She gave me ----- one hundred rupee note. (a)
- d) He met ----- European in Chennai. (a)
- e) He is ----- M.S. from Harvard University. (an)
- f) This is ----- university in Jhansi. (a)
- g) I know Shankar is ----- honest man. (an)
- h) The gift is ----- honour to me. (an)
- i) They broke ----- stone with ----- large hammer. (a, a)
- j) It was ----- unanimous decision. (a)

3. Plural class nouns , unless they are specified, do not take an article.

- Boys will be boys.
- Ants are industrious.
- Old men should be helped.
- There is income tax relief for senior citizens.

