



# IIT Madras

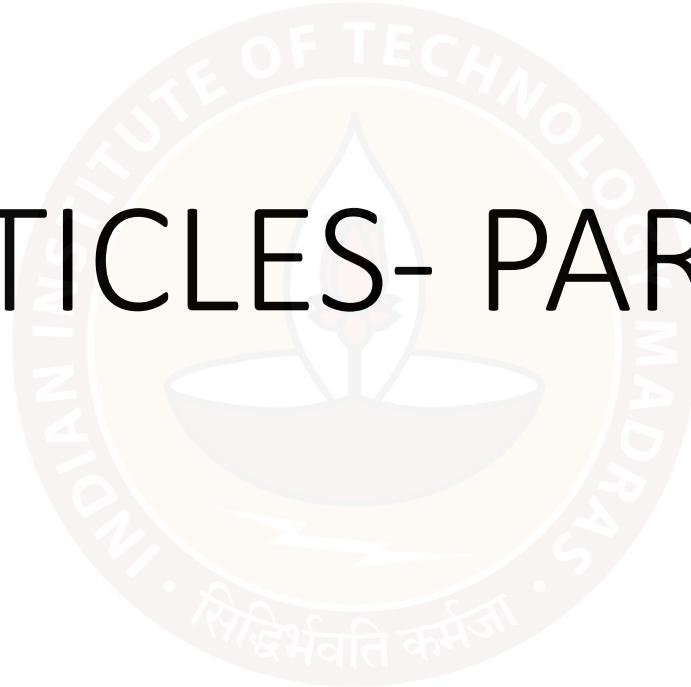
## BSc Degree

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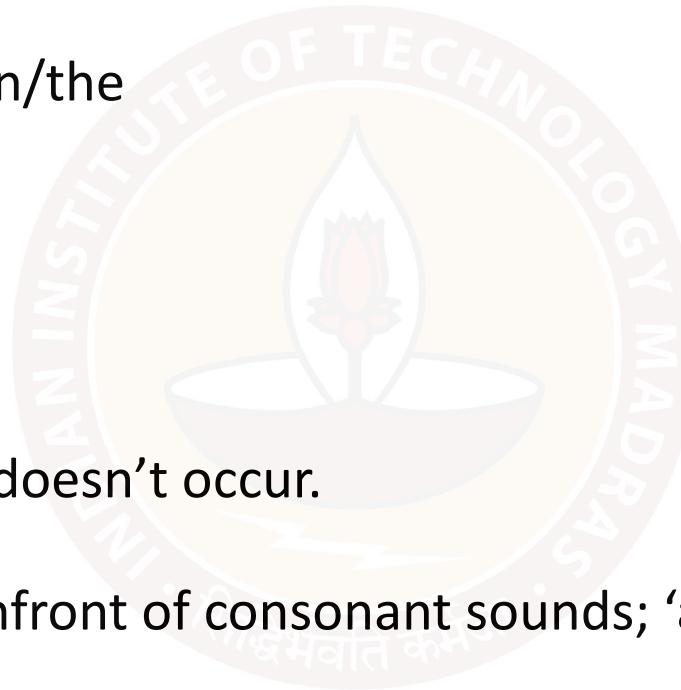
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# ARTICLES- PART 1



# ARTICLES

- Three types of articles – a/an/the
- Indefinite articles – a/ an
- Definite article – the
- Rule: Where ‘a’ occurs, ‘an’ doesn’t occur.
- Rule: The article ‘a’ occurs Infront of consonant sounds; ‘an’ occurs Infront of vowel sounds.



# VOWELS AND CONSONANTS

(9) Voiceless  
Consonants

p

t

k

tʃ

f

θ

s

ʃ

h

(8) Voiced  
Consonants

b

d

g

dʒ

v

ð

z

ʒ

(7) Other  
Consonants

m

n

ŋ

l

w

r

j

## Vowel Sounds

(5) Long  
Vowels

ɪ:

a:

ɔ:

u:

ɜ:

(7) Short  
Vowels

ɪ

e

æ

ʌ

ɒ

ʊ

ə

A few examples:

- Cat - /k/ - a cat ( A cat sat on the table).
- Honest - /o/ - an honest (He is an honest man).
- M.A - /em. ei/ - an MA (I have an MA in English studies)
- Europe - /y/ - a Europe (It was a wonderful European trip)
- One - /w/ - a one (It was a one to one match).

### **Uses of indefinite article a/an**

#### 1. Expressions of quantity and number

- I ate a lot of laddus.
- I waited an hour for him.
- She spent a couple of days in Guntur.
- They bought a number of balloons.

2. Before a proper noun which is insignificant.

- A Mr. Nikhil came to see you.

3. Before a proper noun in figurative use.

- He wanted to be an Einstein.
- She is a Hitler.

4. Before a singular class noun to refer to the whole class.

- An owl can see in darkness.
- A camel can live without water for many days.

5. Before a singular class noun which is referred to for the first time and which is not known to the listener or reader beforehand.

- I saw a bird.
- They caught a big fish.
- He left this place an hour ago.