



# Articles

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- **Indefinite articles**

- ‘A’ and ‘An’ – used before single countable nouns – ‘A’ before consonant sounds and ‘An’ before vowel sounds.

- **Definite articles**

- ‘The’ – refers to a particular noun to refer to particular person, place or thing

# Rules – ‘The’

## ***1. Refers to only one thing of its kind***

- The earth
- The moon

## ***2. Used before noun which refers to a whole class of persons, places, animals, or things***

- The giraffe is the tallest animal

## ***3. Used before names of some famous buildings, statues, places, books***

- The Tale of Two Cities

# Rules – ‘The’

## 4. *Used before the names of*

- Rivers, Mountain ranges, seas and oceans, buildings, holy books, trains, ships – not before single peaks or islands – **The Himalayas, Everest, Sri Lanka, the Titanic, the Frontier Mail**
- **However – don’t use when reference only to a means of transportation**
- He is coming by train
- We normally go to work by bus
- **However - when means of transport preceded by a preposition – use *the* – specific reference:**
- *You can sleep in the car*
- *The consignment kept on the bus fell on the road*

## ***5. Don't use when referred in general sense***

- Gold is a precious metal
- Bread is not made from flour
- However
- **The** gold mined here is of poor quality
- They were grateful for **the** bread we gave them.

# Rule – ‘The’

## **6. General to specific**

- I usually have dinner at 9 pm
- Do you take breakfast everyday?
- The dinner will be held in the lawns
- We enjoyed the breakfast she served that day

# Rules – ‘The’

**7. Don't use before plural nouns if used in general sense – but use in particular type:**

- Mangoes are grown all across the country
- The mangoes grown in UP are sweeter than those in Haryana

**8. Use when use of singular noun to express universal idea – drop ‘the’ when plural to express universal idea:**

- Cows are docile animals
- The cow is a docile animal
- The tiger and the cat belong to the same family
- Tigers and cats belong to the same family

# Rules – ‘The’

**9. Don't use before words like man and woman – general reference**

**10. Don't use with name of countries unless they suggest they are made of several parts, units, states**

- India is a great country
- Italy is an expensive country
- The United States is the strongest democracy in the world
- The West Indies were once the cricket world cup champions



# Rules – ‘The’

***11. Use before name preceded by words – Republic, kingdom, federation***

- The Republic of South Africa finally made its mark in cricket

***12. Don't use with names of games***

- I play tennis

***13. However, use with names of games when used in particular context***

- The tennis played these days is more of a fun

# Rule – ‘The’

## ***14. Don't use before proper nouns***

- Shakespeare is probably the greatest writers of all times

## ***15. Use of proper nouns are used as adjectives and the reference is to the characteristics of the person***

- Kalidas is the Shakespeare of India

# Rule – ‘The’

**16. Can be used before nouns to denote inhabitants of a country but not before the language they speak**

- The English live in England and speak English

**17. Avoid before the words like hospitals, colleges, churches, temples, office.....unless a specific purpose for visiting**

- Christians go to Church
- I am going to the Church for worshipping
- I am getting late for office
- He walked straight into the office and started looking for the cashier