Have you ever been wondering what part of speech the articles belong to? Do you think they are [pronouns](https://byjus.com/english/pronouns/), [adverbs](https://byjus.com/english/adverbs/) or [adjectives](https://byjus.com/english/adjectives/)? Well, this article will help you with all that you need to know. Learn what articles are, their definition, types, how to use them, and uses, along with examples. Also, try out the practice questions given to check how far you have understood the same.

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What is an Article?

An article is a short monosyllabic word that is used to define if the noun is specific or not. Articles are normally used before [nouns](https://byjus.com/english/nouns/) and since they are used to speak about the noun, they can be considered as adjectives.

Look at how various dictionaries define an article to have a much clearer idea of what they are.

Definition of an Article

An article, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is defined as “any of a small set of words or affixes (such as a, an, and the) used with nouns to limit or give definiteness to the application.” According to the Collins Dictionary, “an article is a kind of determiner. In English, ‘a’ and ‘an’ are called the indefinite article, and ‘the’ is called the definite article.” The Macmillan Dictionary defines an article as “a type of determiner (=word used before a noun) that shows whether you are referring to a particular thing or to a general example of something. The indefinite article is ‘a’ or ‘an’ and the definite article is ‘the’.”

Types of Articles

There are three articles in English – ‘a’, ‘an’ and ‘the’. These articles are divided into two types namely:

* Definite Article
* Indefinite Article

Definite Article

Among the three articles, ‘the’ is said to be the definite article. A definite article is used to determine something that is specific or particular. It is also used before [plural nouns](https://byjus.com/english/plural-noun/) and to indicate the [superlative degree of comparison](https://byjus.com/english/superlative-degree-of-comparison/). Furthermore, it can be used before [collective nouns](https://byjus.com/english/collective-nouns/) as well.

For example:

* **The**Sun sets in **the** west.

In the above sentence, the nouns ‘Sun’ and ‘west’ are [proper nouns](https://byjus.com/english/proper-nouns/) and are specific and so the definite article has to be used.

* **The** children are playing cricket.

In the above sentence, the definite article is used to determine the plural noun, ‘children’.

* This is **the** world’s longest river.

In the above sentence, the definite article is used to denote the superlative degree of comparison.

* **The**crowd sang along with **the**band.

In the above sentence, the definite article is used before the collective nouns, ‘crowd’ and ‘band’.