

# ARTICLES

Articles are used before nouns to limit or define their uses in the context of the sentence. They impart effectiveness and accuracy to the nouns.

## Indefinite Articles :

‘A’ is used before a word beginning

- With consonants (sounds)

e.g., a boy , a child , a student ,  
a book

- With a vowel giving the sound of a consonant

e.g., a one eyed man , a European , a university

## An is used before-

- Word beginning with a vowel (a,e,i,o,u)

Examples: An apple, an enemy, an umbrella.

- Words beginning with a **silent “h”**

Examples: An hour, an honest man, an heir.

- Words begin with consonants however, produce vowel sound

Examples: an M.A, an M.B.A., an F.I.R., an X-RAY, an S.D.O.

## **Definite Articles:**

**'The'** is used

- ☐ When we refer to some **particular person or thing**.

Example:

- a. The boy of this school is very obedient.
- b. Let us go to the club.

- ☐ When a Singular Noun is used to indicate **a whole class**.

Examples:

- a. The dog is a faithful animal.
- b. The rose smells sweet.

- ☐ Before the names of river, seas, oceans, gulfs, mountain-ranges and groups of island.

Examples:

- a. The Thames, The Nile, The Ganges.
- b. The Persian gulf, the Bay of Bengal.
- c. The Red sea, The Indian Ocean.
- d. The Andamans, The Himalayas, The Alps.

- ☐ Before the names of **newspapers and scared books**.

Example:

a. The China Times, The Times of India, The Hindustan Times

b. The Vedas, the Geeta, the holy Bible, The holy Quran.

☐ Before Common Nouns which are name of things **unique** of their kind.

Examples:

a. The Earth moves around the Sun.

b. The moon is shining in the sky.

☐ Before the directions.

Example:

a. The Sun rises in the East and sets in the West..

☐ Before the names of **races or nations**.

Examples:

a. The Hindus, The Muslims, the Christians.

b. The English defeated the French.

☐ Before adjective in the **Superlative Degree** and before Ordinary Numeral Adjective.

Examples:

a. This is the best book I have ever seen.

b. January is the first month of the year.

☐ Before the **Adjective to make it Noun**.

Example:

- a. The rich should help the poor.
- b. The young and the old, the high and the low- all loved him.

General rules for usage:

1. A Common Noun in singular number must have an article before it.

Examples:

- a. This is a pen.
- b. This is an umbrella.

2. But a Common Noun in the singular number does not have an article before when it is used in general sense.

Example:

- a. Man is mortal.

3. When we speak of person or thing for the first time we generally use Indefinite Article **A** or **An** **but** when we speak of the same person or the thing the second time, we use the Definite Article **the**.

Examples:

- a. **A** king saw **a** man riding **a** horse.
- b. **The** king punished **the** man riding **the** horse .

4. Common Noun in plural number do not have the Definite Article “the” placed before them.

Examples:

- a. Girls love roses
- b. Children like sweets

5. But when we speak of particular person or thing that we have already mentioned before or that are known to us, we use the Definite Article the

Example:

a. **The** children of this house do not like **the** sweets sold in **the** market.

6. To make a common noun of a proper noun to express quality,  
“He is the shakespeare of our class.”

“He is a Vikramaditya known for his fairness.”

7. In certain expression of quantity with certain numbers and expression of

Rupees ten a kilo

Half a dozen.

### **Omission of articles:**

❑ Names of streets, towns and countries:

e.g.- M.G. Road, New Delhi, India

## EXCEPTION: THE PHILLIPINES; THE NETHERLANDS

☐ Names of person:

Pawan, Anil, Abhay

☐ Names of days and months:

Sunday, Monday, April, May.

☐ Names of subjects:

Painting, Biology etc.

☐ Before material noun:

Clothes are made of cotton, silk and wool

☐ Abstract noun used in general sense:

Health is better than wealth.