



Business English Co-Teach Series 2
Module 9



Infosys®

Building
Tomorrow's Enterprise

General Guideline

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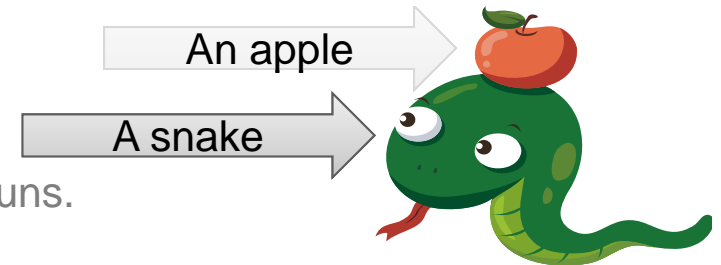
Articles


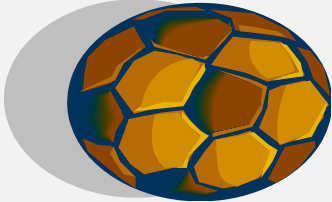
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Articles

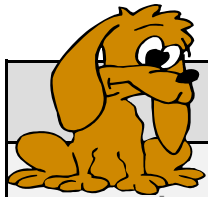
An article is an adjective. Like adjectives, articles modify nouns.
English has two articles:

- The Indefinite Articles(a/an)
- The Definite Article(the)



<u>Indefinite Articles</u>	<u>Definite Articles</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A/an is used to modify non-specific or non-particular nouns. <p>E.g. "Let's see a movie." It means any movie and not a particular movie.</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I ate an orange yesterday. (Any orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The is used to refer to specific or particular nouns. <p>E.g. "Let's see the movie." It means a specific movie.</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please pass the brown ball. (Specific brown ball.)

Indefinite Articles



A

- **a + singular noun beginning with a consonant:**
a boy; a car; a bike; a zoo; a dog
- **a + singular noun beginning with a consonant sound:**
a user (sounds like 'yoo-zer,'); a university; a unicycle
- **a + nouns starting with a pronounced "h":** *a horse*

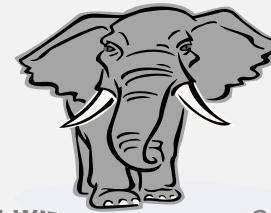
A unicycle



An

- **an + singular noun beginning with a vowel:**
an elephant; an egg; an apple; an idiot; an orphan

An elephant



- **an + nouns starting with a silent "h":** *an hour;*

An hour



‘The’ is used in the following ways:

- When you speak of a particular person or thing or one already referred to;
 - This is *the* book he gave me.
 - This is *the* pen which I found on the ground.
- When a singular noun is used to indicate a whole class; as,
 - *The* cow is a useful animal.
 - *The* bird has a boat shaped body.
- Before the names of certain well known books; as,
 - *The* Vedas, *the* Bible, *the* Mahabharata, *the* Ramayana.
- Before the names of oceans, seas, rivers, mountains, deserts, island groups;
 - *The* Indian Ocean, *the* Arabian Sea, *the* Ganga , *the* Sahara, *the* Himalayas, *the* Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

‘The’ is used in the following ways:

- Before the names of News papers, Magazines
 - The Times of India, the Frontline
- Before the names of monuments, buildings
 - The Taj Mahal , the Rashtrapathi Bhavan
- Before musical instruments
 - The flute, the violin
- Before the names of people
 - The Punjabis, the Dutch
- As an Adverb
 - The fewer the better
- Before nouns indicating what is unique
 - The sun, the moon, the sky, the earth, the equator etc.
- Before an adjective in the superlative degree
 - Michael is the tallest boy in the class



‘The’ is used in the following ways:

- The is used before certain adjectives to give a plural meaning.
 - **the** rich = rich people
 - **the** poor = poor people
- Before ‘only’ and ordinal numbers, such as first, second, millionth etc.
 - All the students of **the** first year are invited
 - **The** second example is not correct
- Before the dates of months.
 - **The** 23 October, 1949, **the** 15th August

Omission of 'The'

- The is omitted before a common noun used in the widest sense.
 - Woman is kindhearted generally
 - Man is not mortal
- Before material nouns.
 - Gold is a precious metal
- Usually before proper nouns.
 - Hyderabad is the capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- Before abstract nouns used in the general sense.
 - Honesty is the best policy.
- Before plural nouns which are used to denote a class.
 - Historians study old monuments for research purposes.
- 'The' is not used before the words – bed, hospital, temple, prison, court, school, university, college etc when they are used for their primary purpose.
 - We go to university for higher studies.
 - Christians go to church every Sunday.

Useful tips

Tip one: When you have a single, countable noun, you must always have an article before it.
For e.g. you would say 'shut the door' and not 'shut door'.

Tip two: Some nouns can also be uncountable. Uncountable nouns can be concepts or materials and substances.
For e.g. Life, romance, joy etc.
for e.g. wood, steel, coffee, tea jute etc.

Tip three: Uncountable nouns cannot be counted and hence we do not use 'a' or 'an'.
For e.g. Water is an uncountable noun. "He gave me a/an water", is wrong usage, however "He gave me **some** water", or "He gave me a glass of water" is right.

Tip four: Some nouns can be countable as well uncountable.
For e.g. We say "coffee" to mean the product, but we say "**a** coffee" to mean one cup of coffee.

Tip five: We use '**the**' to make general things specific. We use '**the**' with any type of noun – plural or singular, countable or uncountable.

"Please pass me **a cookie**" – any cookie.

"Please pass me **the** almond cookie" – the one that has almonds

"Men are foolish" – Men in general.

"**The** men I know are foolish" – not all men, just the ones I know.

Recap



Fill in the blanks with the suitable article:

1. _____ youngest girl has just started going to school ; _____ eldest boy is at college.
2. Most people like to sleep after _____ hard day's work ,but Rita seemed to have _____ inexhaustible supply of energy.
3. _____ British ruled India for 200 yrs.
4. _____ old man who is my neighbor is as wise as _____ owl.
5. Please set _____ clock; it is _____ hour too fast.
6. She found _____ one –rupee note in _____ book she was reading.
7. _____ Sahara is the hottest desert.
8. I had _____ egg for breakfast.
9. _____ thief broke into my house yesterday night.
10. _____ Titanic was a magnificent ship.

Fill in the blanks with the right article or none

- We had a memorable trip to _____ Michigan Lake last weekend.
- He does _____ honorary job.
- Of all the presentations I've seen so far, this one is _____ best.
- _____ Alps are in Switzerland.
- The Manager & _____ Director were late.
- _____ India is a beautiful country.
- I've visited _____ Louvre Museum in Paris.
- Harley Davidson is _____ leading manufacturer of motorbikes.

Add the necessary article

- I like ____ pink skirt better than ____ blue one
- This train does 330 Kms ____ hour
- Where's ____ USB drive I bought last week?
- Do you still live in____ Mysore?
- Is your dad working in ____ old corporate head office?
- Joe's wife works as ____ coordinator.
- Onions are now 24 rupees____ kilo.
- What do you usually have for ____ Dinner?
- John has ____ terrible headache.
- After this webinar you have ____ whole afternoon free for hands-on.

Put 'the' where necessary

- Rashi visited her uncle in _____ hospital thrice last week.
- _____ Madrid is _____ capital of Spain.
- _____ South Pole is opposite to _____ North Pole.
- Parul was _____ one wearing those funny pajamas.
- _____ Andes is the world's longest continental mountain range.
- _____ Mount Everest is higher than _____ Rockies range.
- _____ Nile is a river flowing in northeastern Africa.
- _____ Prince Charles is the next in line to take on the throne from _____ Queen.
- I want to buy _____ new iPhone 4s.
- After going through _____ clues, _____ police came up with _____ FIR.

Fill in the blanks using suitable articles

- I saw ____ large sign saying 'No Entry' at ____ door.
- One the students announced, "____ professor is on his way."
- I want to buy ____ blue vase which is on the second shelf.
- Hari's family speaks ____ Russian.
- I have ____dog and ____ turtle at home.
- John likes to watch ____ football on TV.
- Bengaluru is the capital of ____ Karnataka.
- In ____crowd there were ____ young, ____ old and ____ infirm.
- The volunteers, dressed in white, were doing ____ good job.
- So on ____ two lane road, with not even a tree for ____ shelter, people walked.
- At ____ very early age, I was exposed to ____spiritual guru's class.
- What ____ terrain, what ____ desolation, the landscape was barren and harsh.

Come up with phrases using

a. Zero article

1. Got home early from work
2. Watch TV after dinner

b. with article 'The'

1. made the breakfast
2. went to the dentist

c. with article 'A'

1. I need a book to read.
2. I prefer a cappuccino to a latte.

d. with article 'An'

1. be at the airport in an hour
2. bring an umbrella when you come



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