**Extra recap- Using Articles**

What is an article? Basically, an article is an adjective. Like adjectives, articles modify nouns.

English has two articles: the and a/an. The is used to refer to specific or particular nouns; a/an is used to modify non-specific or non-particular nouns. We call the the *definite* article and a/an the *indefinite* article.

the = definite article

a/an = indefinite article

For example, if I say, "Let's read the book," I mean a *specific* book. If I say, "Let's read a book," I mean *any* book rather than a specific book.

Here's another way to explain it: The is used to refer to a *specific* or *particular* member of a group. For example, "I just saw the most popular movie of the year." There are many movies, but only one particular movie is the most popular. Therefore, we use the.

"A/an" is used to refer to a *non-specific* or *non-particular* member of the group. For example, "I would like to go see a movie." Here, we're not talking about a *specific* movie. We're talking about *any* movie. There are many movies, and I want to see *any* movie. I don't have a specific one in mind.

Let's look at each kind of article a little more closely.

**Indefinite Articles: a and an**

"A" and "an" signal that the noun modified is indefinite, referring to *any* member of a group. For example:

* "My daughter really wants a dog for Christmas." This refers to *any* dog. We don't know which dog because we haven't found the dog yet.
* "Somebody call a policeman!" This refers to *any* policeman. We don't need a specific policeman; we need any policeman who is available.
* "When I was at the zoo, I saw an elephant!" Here, we're talking about a single, non-specific thing, in this case an elephant. There are probably several elephants at the zoo, but there's only *one* we're talking about here.

**Remember, using a or an depends on the sound that begins the next word. So...**

* a + singular noun beginning with a consonant: *a boy; a car; a bike; a zoo; a dog*
* an + singular noun beginning with a vowel: *an elephant; an egg; an apple; an idiot; an orphan*
* a + singular noun beginning with a consonant sound: *a user* (sounds like 'yoo-zer,' i.e. begins with a consonant 'y' sound, so 'a' is used); *a university*; *a unicycle*
* an + nouns starting with silent "h": *an hour*
* a + nouns starting with a pronounced "h": *a horse*
  + In some cases where "h" is pronounced, such as "historical," you can use an. However, a is more commonly used and preferred.

A historical event is worth recording.

Remember that these rules also apply when you use acronyms: The IMF – FBI USA UK The WHO -INTIALISM

The NATO- North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The UNESCO

The NASA-

The UNICEF –

The IMF

Abba

BERYWAM

Introductory Composition at Purdue (ICaP) handles first-year writing at the University. Therefore, an ICaP memo generally discusses issues concerning English 106 instructors.

Another case where this rule applies is when acronyms or initialisms start with consonant letters but have vowel sounds:

An MSDS (material safety data sheet) was used to record the data. An SPCC plan (Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures plan) will help us prepare for the worst.

If the noun is modified by an adjective, the choice between a and an depends on the initial sound of the adjective that immediately follows the article:

An elephant / a black elephant

* a broken egg - an egg - a cracked egg
* a problem - an unusual/extraordinary problem
* a big problem
* ~~A/~~AN Unexpected problem
* a European country (sounds like 'yer-o-pi-an,' i.e. begins with consonant 'y' sound)

Remember, too, that in English, the indefinite articles are used to indicate membership in a group:

* I am a teacher. (I am a member of a large group known as teachers.)
* Brian is an Irishman. (Brian is a member of the people known as Irish.)
* Seiko is a practicing Buddhist. (Seiko is a member of the group of people known as Buddhists.)

Svo - sov

**Definite Article: the**

The definite article is used before singular and plural nouns when the noun is specific or particular. The signals that the noun is definite, that it refers to a particular member of a group. For example:

"The dog that bit me ran away." Here, we're talking about a *specific* dog, the dog that bit me.

"I was happy to see the policeman who saved my cat!" Here, we're talking about a *particular* policeman. Even if we don't know the policeman's name, it's still a particular policeman because it is the one who saved the cat.

"I saw the elephant at the zoo." Here, we're talking about a *specific* noun. Probably there is only one elephant at the zoo.

**Count and Noncount Nouns**

The can be used with noncount nouns, or the article can be omitted entirely.

* "I love to sail over the water" (some specific body of water) or "I love to sail over water" (any water).
* "He spilled the milk all over the floor" (some specific milk, perhaps the milk you bought earlier that day) or "He spilled milk all over the floor" (any milk).

"A/an" can be used only with count nouns.

* "I need a bottle of water."
* "I need a new glass of milk."

Most of the time, you can't say, "She wants a water," unless you're implying, say, a bottle of water.

**Geographical use of the**

There are some specific rules for using the with geographical nouns.

Do not use the before:

* names of most countries/territories: *Italy, Mexico, Bolivia*; however, *the* Netherlands, *the* Dominican Republic, *the* Philippines, *the* United States
* names of cities, towns, or states: *Seoul, Manitoba, Miami*
* names of streets: *Washington Blvd., Main St.*
* names of lakes and bays: *Lake Titicaca, Lake Erie* except with a group of lakes like *the Great Lakes*
* names of mountains: *Mount Everest, Mount Fuji* except with ranges of mountains like *the Andes* or *the Rockies* or unusual names like *the Matterhorn*
* names of continents (Asia, Europe)
* names of islands (Easter Island, Maui, Key West) except with island chains like the Aleutians, the Hebrides, or the Canary Islands

Do use the before:

* names of rivers, oceans and seas: *the Nile, the Pacific*
* points on the globe: *the Equator, the North Pole*
* geographical areas: *the Middle East, the West*
* deserts, forests, gulfs, and peninsulas: *the Sahara, the Persian Gulf, the Black Forest, the Iberian Peninsula*

**Omission of Articles**

Some common types of nouns that don't take an article are:

* Names of languages and nationalities: *Chinese, English, Spanish, Russian* (unless you are referring to the population of the nation: "**The** Spanish are known for their warm hospitality.")
* Names of sports: *volleyball, hockey, baseball*
* Names of academic subjects: *mathematics, biology, history, computer science*

Mathematics was my worst nightmare

English was and is my favourite

* **Exercise : Articles Exercise 1**
* Directions: Fill in the blank with the appropriate article, ***a***, ***an***, or ***the***, or leave the space blank if no article is needed.
* 1. I want \_\_an\_\_ apple from that basket.
* 2. \_The\_\_\_ church on the corner is progressive.
* 3. Miss Lin speaks \_\_-\_\_ Chinese.
* 4. I borrowed \_\_a\_\_ pencil from your pile of pencils and pens.
* 5. One of the students said, "\_the\_ professor is late today."
* 6 Eli likes to play \_\_-\_\_ volleyball.
* 7. I bought \_an\_ umbrella to go out in the rain.
* 8. My daughter is learning to play \_\_the\_\_ violin at her school.
* 9. Please give me \_\_the\_\_ cake that is on the counter.
* 10. I lived on \_\_-\_\_ Main Street when I first came to town.
* 11. Albany is the capital of \_-\_\_ New York State.
* 12. My husband's family speaks \_-\_\_\_ Polish.
* 13. \_an\_\_\_ apple a day keeps the doctor away.
* 14. \_\_the\_\_ ink in my pen is red.
* 15. Our neighbors have \_a\_\_\_ cat and \_\_a\_\_ dog.
* Correct answers are in bold.
* 1. I want **an** apple from that basket. (any)
* 2. **The** church on the corner is progressive.
* 3. Miss Lin speaks Chinese. (**no article needed**) Germany/German
* 4. I borrowed **a** pencil from your pile of pencils and pens.
* 5. One of the students said, "**The** professor is late today."
* 6. Eli likes to play volleyball. (**no article needed**)
* 7. I bought **an** umbrella to go out in the rain.
* 8. My daughter is learning to play **the** violin at her school.
* 9. Please give me **the** cake that is on the counter.
* 10. I lived on Main Street when I first came to town. (**no article needed**)
* 11. Albany is the capital of New York State. (**no article needed**)
* 12. My husband's family speaks Polish. (**no article needed**)
* 13. **An** apple a day keeps the doctor away.
* 14. **The** ink in my pen is red.
* 15. Our neighbors have **a** cat and **a** dog.

France- French – Paris

China- Chinese/ Mandarin

* **Directions: Write the following paragraphs, inserting a, an, and the where needed.**
* 1. I have horse of my own. I call her Pretty Girl. She is intelligent animal, but she is not thoroughbred horse. I could never enter her in race, even if I wanted to. But I do not want to. She is companion, for my own pleasure. I took her swimming day or two ago.
* 2. Horse knows when he is going to race. How does he know? His breakfast was scanty. (He is angry about that.) He does not have saddle on his back. He is being led, not ridden, to grandstand. He is led under grandstand into unusual, special stall. Horse is nervous. Sometimes he does not know what to do when starting gate flies open and track is before him. If he does not begin to run instantly, other horses are already ahead of him. During race, when he sees another horse just ahead of him, he will try to pass him. Sometimes jockey holds him back to save his energy for last stretch. Eventually horse gets to run as fast as he can. Exercise boy, watching owner's favorite jockey riding horse he has exercised day after day, says nothing. Secretly, he is planning for day when he will be jockey himself, and his horse will be first to cross finish line.
* 3. Most working people have fewer hours to give to time-consuming activities of clubs than they used to have, but most people in small town belong to club or two. One of clubs is likely to be social and benevolent organization, such as Rotary or Elks. Business people are likely to belong, also to either Kiwanis Club or Lions. Such business people's organizations may meet as often as once a week in one of private dining rooms of town's leading hotel for lunch. They have good lunch, hear good program, and continue their fundraising program for worthy organization, such as local hospital.
* Correct answers are in bold.
* 1. I have **a** horse of my own. I call her Pretty Girl. She is **an** intelligent animal, but she is not **a** thoroughbred horse. I could never enter her in **a** race, even if I wanted to. But I do not want to. She is **a** companion, for my own pleasure. I took her swimming **a** day or two ago.
* 2. **A** horse knows when he is going to race. How does he know? His breakfast was scanty. (He is angry about that.) He does not have **a** saddle on his back. He is being led, not ridden, to **the** grandstand. He is led under **the** grandstand into **an** unusual, special stall. **The** horse is nervous. Sometimes he does not know what to do when **the** starting gate flies open and **the** track is before him. If he does not begin to run instantly, other horses are already ahead of him. During **the** race, when he sees another horse just ahead of him, he will try to pass him. Sometimes **the** jockey holds him back to save his energy for **the** last stretch. Eventually **the** horse gets to run as fast as he can. **The** exercise boy, watching **the** owner's favorite jockey riding **the** horse he has exercised day after day, says nothing. Secretly, he is planning for **the** day when he will be **a** jockey himself, and his horse will be **the** first to cross **the** finish line.
* 3. Most working people have fewer hours to give to time-consuming activities of clubs than they used to have, but most people in **a** small town belong to **a** club or two. One of **the** clubs is likely to be **a** social and benevolent organization, such as **the** Rotary or Elks. Business people are likely to belong, also to either **the** Kiwanis Club or **the** Lions. Such business people's organizations may meet as often as once a week in one of **the** private dining rooms of **the** town's leading hotel for lunch. They have **a** good lunch, hear **a** good program, and continue their fundraising program for **a** worthy organization, such as **a** local hospital.