English has three articles **a**, **an**, and **the**, which are used with nouns.

Article **a** is used with singular, countable nouns which begin with a consonant

*a door*

*a garden*

*a letter*

Article **an** is used with singular, countable nouns which start with a vowel or with **h** when it is not pronounced.

*an apple*

*an eye*

*an hour*

Article **the** can be used with singular and plural nouns, countable and uncountable.

*the door - the doors*

*the garden - the gardens*

*water - the water*

*money - the money*

**The usage**

Article **a/an** is used

1. When we say what people’s jobs or professions are or what kind of a thing/person they are

*Adam is a dentist. His brother is an engineer.*

*Julia is a manager at a store.*

*New York is a big city.*

1. When we talk about something for the first time or when something is not definite

*I have a white cat.*

*There is a table in the room.*

Article **the** is used

1. When we talk about things that are definite in a given context or things which are mentioned for the second time.

*The room is on the 3rd floor.* – the speakers know what room they refer to.

*The bus stop is near here.*  – they speak about the nearest bus stop

*I have a cat.* The cat is brown. – when the speaker mentions the cat the second

time it becomes definite.

1. We use article **the** when we talk about things of which there is only one

*The Moon goes around the Earth.*

*The sun is high in the sky.*

1. Article **the** is used with musical instruments.

*I play the guitar*

*We learn to play the piano.*

1. Article **the** is used with the floors of buildings.

*We live on the ground floor.*

*I live the view from the tenth floor.*

1. We don’t use article **the** with plural or uncountable nouns when we mention things or people in general.

*Cows eat grass.*

*Wine is made of grapes. –* wine in general

**But** *The wine we bought is very good.* – the exact wine we bought