

Gobbledygook

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## GRAMMAR GRANDIOSE **GG**

### Grenade-2

#### ARTICLES...not things....'A' and 'AN'...part-1

There are two types of articles:

- (1) The definite article.
- (2) The indefinite article.

The Indefinite Articles: 'A' and 'AN'

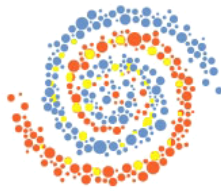
The Definite article: The.

What are English grammar articles? An **article** is a word that is used before a noun to show whether the noun refers to something specific or not. **A**, **an** and **the** are articles.



**Examples:**

"I need **a** chair."



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In the sentence above we find the article "a". It shows us that the speaker does not need a *specific* chair. He can have **any** chair.



"I want **an** apple."

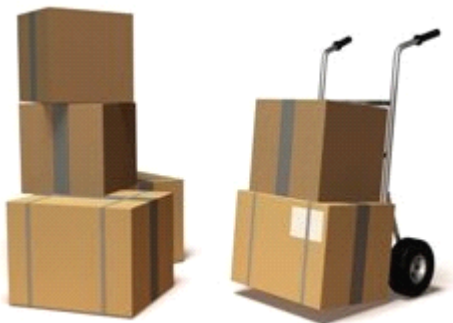
In the sentence above we find the article 'an'. It shows us that the speaker does not want a specific apple. He can have any apple.

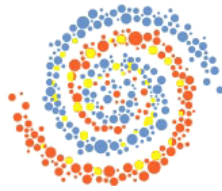
'I want the **red** apple.'

In the sentence above we find the article "the." It shows us that the speaker wants a **specific** apple.

In English, there are two kinds of grammar articles.

**The Definite Article**  
(For example: the box)





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**"Definite"** means "clear, obvious."

The **definite article** tells us that the noun is specific. The speaker talks about a particular (or known) thing.

The definite article in English is "**the**."

**Examples:**

"**The** car I bought broke down."

"He has a son and a daughter. **The** daughter is a doctor."

"**The** actors were really good."

"I remember **the** day we first met."

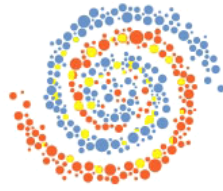
"The" can be used before both singular and plural nouns.

**Examples:**

"The flower he gave her was very beautiful."

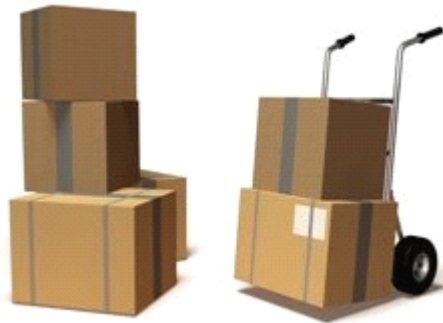
"The flowers on the table are nice."

**The Indefinite Article  
(For example: a box)**



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"**In-**" means "not," and "**definite**" means "clear, obvious."

"**Indefinite**" means "not clear, not exact."

The **indefinite article** tells us that the noun is *not* specific. The speaker talks about *any one* of that type of thing.

The indefinite articles in English are "**a**" and "**an**."

### **Examples:**

"I need **a** pen."

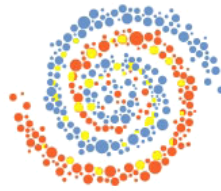
(The speaker doesn't tell us which pen he needs. He simply needs a pen, any pen.)

"Lisa wants to see **a** movie."

(The speaker doesn't tell us which movie Lisa wants to see. She wants to see some movie.)

"Joe has **a** car."

(The speaker doesn't tell us which car Joe has. He has some car.)



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"She is **a** dancer."  
(She dances for a living.)

### **What is the difference between "a" and "an"?**

"A" and "an" have the same meaning.

We use "a" before a consonant sound.

#### **Examples:**

a dog  
a building  
a country  
a professor  
a university

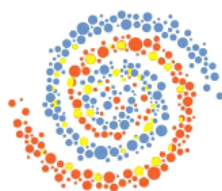
The indefinite article 'a' is also used before a word beginning with a letter (like O) with the sound like 'wa' e.g. A one-rupee note, a one-eyed man etc. It is also used before a word beginning with 'u' or 'eu' giving the consonant sound 'yu'.

E.g- a university.  
A European.

We use "an" before a vowel sound.

#### **Examples:**

an apple  
an umbrella  
an eye  
an hour



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The indefinite article 'an' is also used before a word beginning with 'h' but the pronunciation of which starts with a vowel sound.

E.g- an heir, an hour, an honest man, etc.

It is also used before an abbreviation, the first letter of which has a vowel sound.

E.g- an M.L.A, an M.P, an M.Com, an S.D.O, an F.R.C.S, an X-mas gift etc.

We use "a" and "an" only before a singular noun. We can't use "a" and "an" before a plural noun.

### **Important!**

We use "a" and "an" only before a singular noun. We can't use "a" and "an" before a plural noun.

### **Examples:**

**Correct:** a car.

**Incorrect:** a cars.

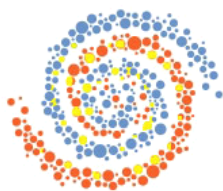
**Correct:** an orange.

**Incorrect:** a oranges.

### **What is the difference between "a" and "the"?**

"The" is used to talk about specific or known things. These are usually things that have been mentioned before or that the listener is familiar with.

"A" (or "an") is used to talk about things which are not specific. These are usually things that haven't been mentioned before or that the listener is unfamiliar with.



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Let's say I tell you: "I went to see **a** doctor last week."

Explanation: I went to see some doctor. I didn't mention him before, and you are not familiar with him. Another option is that it is not important who he is. So I use the word "a".

Then I say: "**The** doctor said I should get more rest."

Now you already know which doctor I am referring to. I am referring to the doctor I went to see. So I use the word "the."

Next I say to you: "Do you remember **the** movie we watched together?"

I use the word "the" because I mention a specific movie - you know which movie I am talking about.

Then I tell you: "Well, I've seen **a** better movie since!"

You are not familiar with the new movie, so I use the word "a".

I also tell you: "**A** man on the street stepped on my foot."

You don't know who exactly stepped on my foot, I've never mentioned him before. So I use the word "a".

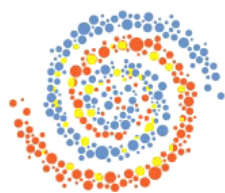
Finally, I tell you: "I am **a** singer."

This sentence simply means that I sing for a living. If I said: "I am the singer", you would understand that I am the singer that was mentioned before.

For example:

- "Wow! I heard a great singer is coming to town."
- "Oh, it's me. I am the great singer."

Now that we understand the general idea of English grammar articles, here are some more specific details:



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## Specific Uses of English Grammar Articles

In this case	Example Sentence
<b>Use "a" / "an"</b> You mention something for the first time. You want to say that something belongs to a certain group. You want to say that someone belongs to a certain group. You want to say that something is that kind of thing. You want to say that someone is that kind of person.	 I have a problem.  This is a table.  She is a designer.  I've built a strong ship.  He is a nice guy.
<b>Use "the"</b> You talk about a specific thing. It is clear which thing you are talking about. There is only one such thing.	 The feeling I got was very strange.  I passed the test!  Look at the sun.
<b>No article</b> You talk about something in general. You talk about cities, countries, streets, etc.	 Pigs can't fly. Diving can be difficult.  We visited Italy.

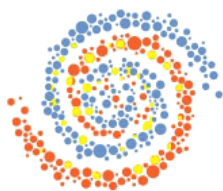
Let us know some important rules regarding the use of 'ARTICLES'.

### Rule-1

A or An is not used before:

- (a). plural nouns: a books, a universities, a dinners etc.      X
- (b). Uncountable nouns: an advice, an information.
- (c). Names of meals:





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Example: Let us have lunch      Correct

Let us have a lunch      Incorrect

Exception: An indefinite article can be used before a names of meals when these are preceded by an adjective.

Example: She gave me a good breakfast at 8 am.

### **Rule-2**

In certain phrases: a cold, a pain, on an average, make a noise, make an effort, make a mistake, a fever etc.

### **Rule-3**

With certain numbers: a hundred, a thousand, a million, etc.

### **Rule-4**

Before a proper noun to make it a common noun.

Example: Rohan is a Newton. ( Rohan is a great scientist)

Piku is a Shakespeare. ( Piku is a great dramatist)

### **Rule-5**

Before certain uncountable nouns preceded by nouns + of

Examples: a piece of advice, a bit of news, a drop of water etc.

### **Rule-6**

After the words many, rather, such, quite etc. In certain structures.

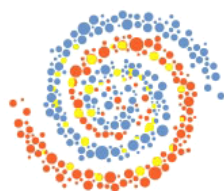
Examples: Many a friend of mine is attending the party.

Such a show cannot be arranged today.

Mala is rather a fool to take such decisions.

### **Rule-7** In certain expressions of quantity.

Examples: a lot of, a couple, a great many, a good deal of, a good many, a great deal of, a few, a little, etc.



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**'The' is used in the following case:**

**Rule-8**

Before a noun denoting a hospital, temple, school, college, prison etc. If its purpose or use is not referred to or say if used in its primary purpose.

Example:

He has gone to the hospital to visit a friend.

**Rule-9**

Before an adjective in the superlative degree.

Example:

Rikki is the tallest boy in the class.

**Rule-10**

With nouns which refer to things which are unique.

Examples:

The sun, the moon, the earth, the equator, etc.

**Rule-11**

The is used before a singular countable noun which picks out one individual, object, etc, as representative of a class.

Example:

The dog is a faithful animal.

**Note:** All the following sentences mean the same thing.

The dog is a faithful animal.

A dog is a faithful animal.

Dogs are faithful animals.

**Rule-12**

The is used before certain adjectives to give a plural meaning.

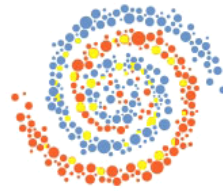
Examples: the rich, the poor, the sick, the healthy, the dea, the blind, etc.

The rich= rich people      The healthy= healthy people.

**Rule-13**

With certain adjectives including nationality.

Examples: the Dutch, the Spanish, the Chinese, the Burmese etc.



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**Rule-14**

Before 'only' and 'ordinal numbers', such as first, second, millionth etc.

Examples:

She is the only student in the class chosen for the student exchange program.

All the students of the second year will go for the excursion.

**Rule-15**

Before a noun when special emphasis is needed.

Example:

This is the book I am talking about.

**Rule-16**

Before the adjective in the superlative degree of comparison.

Example:

She is the most intelligent of all the candidates in the exam.

**Rule-17**

In special comparatives.

Examples:

The more you earn, the more you spend.

The more, the better.

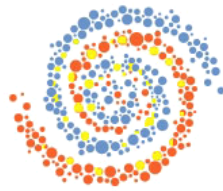
The higher you go, the cooler you feel.

**Rule-18**

Before musical instruments.

Example:

Rajini can play the guitar quite well.



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**Rule-19**

Before the proper names of certain well-known or sacred books.

Examples:

the Mahabharat, the Ramayana, the Gita, the Bible,  
the Quran.

**Rule-20**

Before the names of certain countries each of which is a union of smaller units.

Examples:

The U.S.A, the U.N, the U.K, etc.

**Rule-21**

Before the words like north, south, etc, when these are used as nouns.

Examples:

The north of India, the Middle East, the West Asia.

**Rule-22**

Before the names of political parties.

Examples:

The BJP, The Congress, etc.

**Rule-23**

When it is cleared from the context that a particular person, place, or thing is meant.

Examples:

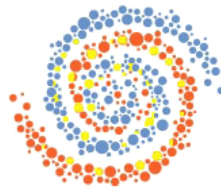
I talked to the Principal yesterday.  
The students are playing in the garden.

**Rule-24**

Before the names of the historical or public places.

Examples:

The Taj Mahal, the Red Fort, the Rashtrapati Bhavan, etc.



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**Rule-25**

Before the names of seas.

Examples:

The Arabian sea, the dead sea, the Red sea, etc.

**Rule-26**

Before the names of oceans.

Examples:

The Indian Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, etc.

**Rule-27**

Before the names of some mountains.

Examples:

The Himalayas, the Alps, etc.

**Rule-28**

Before the names of deserts.

Examples:

The Sahara, the Thar, etc.

**Rule-29**

Before the names of newspapers, magazines, etc.

Examples:

The Hindustan Times, the Hindu, the Deccan Chronicle, etc.

**Rule-30**

Before groups of islands.

Examples:

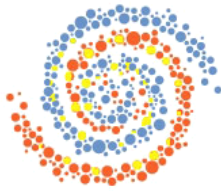
The Andamans, the West Indies, etc.

**Rule-31**

Before the names of certain countries.

Examples:

The Yemen, the Sudan, the Hagues, etc.



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**Rule-32**

Before the dates of months.

Examples:

The 25 October, 1965, the 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947, etc.