

Articles

Basically, articles are either *definite* or *indefinite*. They combine to a noun to indicate the type of reference being made by the noun.

- The **definite** article is “**the**”.
- The **indefinite** article is “**a**”/“**an**”.

The indefinite article « a » or « an » :

The article **a** / **an** is used when we don't specify the things or people we are talking about.

EXAMPLES :

- I work in **a** hospital in Marrakesh.
- I've never had **an** operation for my prolapse.

The indefinite article **a** is used before a consonant sound:

- **a** doctor
- **a** foetus

The indefinite article **an** is used before a vowel sound:

- **an** operation
- **an** abnormality

The definite article « the » :

It's used when the speaker talks about a specific object that both the person speaking and the listener know.

EXAMPLES :

- I can see **the** baby's head.
- Put your feet in **the** stirrups, please.
- What is **the** date of your last period ?

When we speak of something or someone for the first time we use **a** or **an**, the next time we repeat that object we use the definite article **the**.

EXAMPLES :

- Last month, I had **a** reddish discharge. **The** discharge appeared in the middle of my cycle.
- My sister had **a** miscarriage. **The** miscarriage seriously affected her mental health.

No article:

We do not use an article with countries, states, counties or provinces, lakes and mountains except when the country is a collection of states such as "**The** United States".

EXAMPLES :

- I'm doing my residency in **Germany**.
- He lives in **Bengrir**, not far from **Marrakesh**.

We do not normally use an article with plurals and uncountable nouns to talk about things in general.

EXAMPLES :

- You should stay hydrated by drinking **water**.
- Medical students get used to seeing **blood** over time.
- I've always had normal vaginal **deliveries**.