



# Articles 1

Grammar > Beginner 3



# Exercise 1 – Learning

'A', 'an' and 'the' are called '**articles**'. They go before nouns and tell us about those nouns: '**a** shirt' refers to any shirt; '**the** shirt' refers to one specific shirt.

## Indefinite Articles: A, An

'Indefinite' means that something is not defined or specified.

The indefinite articles '**a**' and '**an**' refer to non-specific things. '**A**' becomes '**an**' when the word that follows starts with a vowel.

- I am **a** doctor. (= '*an doctor*' is incorrect)
- I am **an** actor. (= '*a actor*' is incorrect)

We use '**a**' or '**an**' to refer to one non-specific person/place/thing:

- Please choose **a** card. (= *choose one card. Any card is fine*)



## Definite Article: The

The word 'definite' comes from the word 'define' (to clearly say what something is).

The definite article, '**the**', makes the noun that comes after it more specific. We use '**the**' to refer to:

### 1. Things that have already been mentioned:

- "I see a dog. **The** dog is cute."
- (= The dog in the first sentence is cute.)

### 2. Things that don't need to be specified:

- "Can you close **the** door?"
- (= There is only one door in the room: 'the' door.)
- "**the** world / **the** sun / **the** sky / **the** universe"
- (= There is only one world, one sun, one sky, one universe.)



## Things in general

When we talk about things in general, we normally use plural or uncountable noun with **no article**.

- Birds eat worms.
- Water freezes at 0°C.
- Children need a lot of sleep.

## Particular groups of things

When we talk about a particular group of things, we use **'the'**.

*Ex: We went to the zoo and saw the kangaroos. (These are the particular kangaroos in that zoo – not kangaroos in general.)*

**Tip:** When there is an adjective, **'a(n)'** and **'the'** go before the adjective. For example, "Starbucks is **a famous** coffee shop" or "I want **the blue** shirt."



## Exercise 2 – Fill in the Blanks

*Fill in the blanks with a, an, or the.*

1. I want \_\_\_\_\_ new suit.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ world changes every day.
3. The socks go in \_\_\_\_\_ closet.
4. I'm taking \_\_\_\_\_ interesting class right now.
5. I'm writing a report. \_\_\_\_\_ report is about animals.
6. I want to buy \_\_\_\_\_ blue jacket from that store.
7. It's \_\_\_\_\_ white and orange cat.
8. I know \_\_\_\_\_ cat you are talking about!



## Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

*Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.*

**Example:** I want, blue shirt. → I want a blue shirt.

### Content:

1. This is, Atlantic Ocean.
2. Is, sun shining today?
3. This is, island.
4. That is, big island.
5. Who is, best soccer player?
6. I can't play, guitar.