

Lesson- Articles



Articles are placed before nouns. They show whether a given noun is general or specific.

There are three articles in the English language: **a**, **an**, and **the**

Examples-

- I want **a** cheeseburger. (It could be any cheeseburger.)
- I could use **an** apple. (It could be any apple.)
- I need **the** notes that I wrote in class! (The speaker is talking about specific notes.)

Usage of **a**, **an** and **the**

A

We use **a** when we are talking about a common noun i.e., not a specific one.

For example, I have a pen. Here we used **a** because the sentence doesn't specify a particular pen.

An

We use **an** when we are taking about a common noun i.e., not a specific one BUT the letter after the article is a vowel.

For example, I have an umbrella. Here we used **an** because the sentence doesn't specify a particular umbrella and the letter just after the article is a vowel ('u' in this case).

The

We use **the** when we are talking about-

- i) A specific thing
- ii) A universal truth

For example, The book is in Spanish. Here, we used **the** to specify that we are talking about a specific book, the book which is in Spanish.

The moon revolves around the Sun. Here, we used **the** to show that the sentence is a universal truth, it means that this cannot be changed.

Remember- Don't use 'a,' an,' or 'the' when you mean 'any,' 'in general,' 'not specific.'