

## Chapter No. 4

## ARTICLES

Definition:

The articles are the words which generalize (عمومیت پیدا کرتے ہیں) or specialize (مخصوص معنی دینا) a noun.

The article properly speaking is not a distinct (الگ) part of speech. It is merely (صرف) an adjective. However the 'demonstrative adjective' (مفہوم) 'A, An, The' are usually called articles.

(حروف تلمیذ یا تلمیذی)

ایسے الفاظ جو اسموں کی تخصیص کریں یا عمومیت کے معنی پیدا کریں آرٹیکل کہلاتے ہیں۔ انگریزی میں a, an, the ایسے الفاظ ہیں جو Noun کو عام بنا دیتے ہیں یا پھر مخصوص معنی دیتے ہیں۔ مثلاً A bird سے مراد کوئی سا پرندہ An egg سے مراد کوئی سا انڈا ہو سکتا ہے۔ لیکن The book سے مراد ایک مخصوص کتاب ہے اور The cat سے مراد ایک مخصوص بلی ہو سکتی ہے۔ مثلاً

1. A cat is running in the street.
2. The cat which you saw, belonged to Saleem.

## Kinds of Articles

There are two kinds of articles.

- (i) Indefinite articles (ii) Definite articles

## (i) Indefinite articles

A and an are called indefinite articles. They do not point to any particular person.

## (ii) Definite articles

They refer to a particular person or thing and hence are called definite articles.

## The Use of Indefinite Articles (a, an)

A, an are used:

1. Before a singular noun which is countable (of which that is more than one) when it is mentioned for the first time.

an ایسے واحد اسموں سے پہلے جن کی گنتی ہو سکے۔

- (i) I need a passport. (ii) They live in a house. (iii) He bought an ice cream.

2. Before a singular countable noun which is used as an example of a class of things.

- (i) A child has four legs.

- (ii) A child needs love.

3. In certain expression of quantity.

Quantity (مقدار) کو ظاہر کرنے کے لئے a, an استعمال ہوتے ہیں۔ مثلاً

A lot of, A couple of, A great many, A dozen of, A great deal of.

4. In exclamation before singular countable nouns.

Exclamation میں جب کسی ایک چیز کے بارے میں اپنے جذبہ بات یا تاثرات کا اظہار کیا جا رہا ہو۔



What a pretty face!

What an astonishing thing!

What a beautiful girl!

What pretty girls (no article, plural noun)

5. A, and an can be used before the name of person who are strangers to us.

جنسی لوگوں کے نام سے پہلے جن سے ہم واقف نہ ہو۔

- (i) a Mr. Jamil (ii) a Miss Salma

6. In expression of price, speed, ratios.

نیت، رفتار اور تناسب کو ظاہر کرنے کے لئے

- (i) 5 Rs. A Kilo (ii) Sixty millimeters an hour (iii) Four times a day

7. With certain numbers

a hundred, a thousand.

Before half, when half follows a whole number

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilos = one and half kilos or a kilo and half

But  $\frac{1}{2}$  kg = half a kilo (incorrect)

However a + half + noun is possible.

a half holiday, a half portion, a half share

8. With proper nouns to generalize them.

ہم مذکورہ نوبیت کے معنی دینے کے لئے۔

He is a Rustam of our class.

(as strong as Rustam)

### (a) Use of 'A'

- (i) 'A' is used

Before words beginning with consonants

Consonant کی آواز پیدا کرنے والے الفاظ کے ساتھ

a boy, a king

- (ii) When 'u' is pronounced 'you'

a university, a European, a Union

جب u بولے میں u کی آواز دے۔ مثلاً

- (iii) When 'O' is pronounced as 'wa'

جب 'O' w کی آواز دے۔

- (i) A once common practice

- (ii) A one eyed man.

- (iii) A one rupee note

### (b) Use of 'An'

An is used for:

- (i) Before words beginning with vowels (a, e, I, o, u)

An ox, an evening.



## (ii) Before words giving the sound of vowels.

an ایسے الفاظ سے پہلے لکھیں جو Vowels سے شروع ہوں۔

(i) An M.A. (ایم۔ اے) (الف کی آواز)

(ii) An S.D.O. (ایس۔ ڈی۔ او) (اے کی آواز)

(iii) An F.A. (ایف۔ اے) (ایف کی آواز)

## (iii) Before words beginning with silent 'h'

(i) An honourable person

(ii) An hour ago

ایسے الفاظ جن میں 'h' کی آواز ساکت ہو۔

an لگانے کا معین اور پکا اصول

(a) اگر کسی واحد اسم کو ہم پڑھیں اور اردو میں اس کی آواز 'الف' یا 'آ' کی آواز تو an لگائیں۔ ورنہ (a)

Note: The choice between a and an depends on pronunciation not on spelling. We use an before a vowel sound even if it is written as a vowel, 'an hour, an M.P.A'.

## (c) Use of 'The'

Unique Things:

1. The is used before objects, or group of objects which are unique or considered unique.

ایسے اسموں سے پہلے جو اپنی قسم کے ایک ہی ہوں۔

The earth, The moon, The sun, The sky, The North pole, The weather.

Nouns, Mentioned Second Time:

2. Before a noun which becomes definite as a result of being mentioned second time.

ایسا اسم جس کا دوبارہ ذکر کیا گیا ہو اس سے پہلے The استعمال کریں۔

I saw a policeman. The policeman was very disturbed.

Policeman کا ذکر دوبارہ آیا ہے اس لئے اس سے پہلے The استعمال کریں۔

Nouns which represent a Class:

3. Before singular nouns used to represent a class of objects.

ایسے واحد اسموں سے پہلے استعمال ہوتا ہے جو تمام جماعت یا گروہ کی نمائندگی کریں۔

(ii) The lion is a noble beast.

(i) The dog is a faithful animal.

پہلے جملے سے مرادہ کہ تمام کتے وفادار ہوتے ہیں۔ The dog سے مراد کتوں کی تمام جماعت ہے۔ دوسرے فقرے میں شیر سے مراد تمام شیر ہیں۔

اس اصول سے man اور woman مستثنیٰ ہیں۔ یعنی ان کے ساتھ the نہیں لگایا جاتا۔

4. Man is mortal (انسان فانی یعنی ہر انسان فانی ہے) When we think about things or people general, we do not use the.

جب ہم اشیاء یا لوگوں کو مجموعی حیثیت سے جاننے کی کوشش کرتے ہیں تو ان کے ساتھ the نہیں لگاتے۔ البتہ اگر ہم ان کی خصوصی حالت میں بیان کرنے کی کوشش کرتے ہیں تو the لگاتے ہیں۔



## To The Point "Functional English" General Education Course

1. I am afraid of dogs (dogs in general not a specific group of dogs).
2. Doctors are paid more than teachers. (Doctor, general)

In general (without the)	Specific people or things
1. Children learn from playing (children-general)	We took the children to the zoo.
1. Boys are more intelligent than girls. عام لڑکے اور لڑکیاں۔ ساری دنیا میں موجود	The boys are more intelligent than the girls. لڑکوں اور لڑکیوں کا کوئی خاص گروپ مثلاً جیسے کسی Teacher کے سامنے بیٹھا ہوا

Note: We say most people/most books/most cars/not the most books.

### Before Adjectives:

5. Before an adjective used to represent a class of persons.

اسی ام صفت سے پہلے The لگا کر تمام گروہ یا جماعت کے معنی پیدا کئے جاتے ہیں۔

The young, the rich, the poor, the blind, the deaf, the dead

### The Superlative Degrees:

6. The is used before the superlative degree.

He is the fattest boy of the class.

The ام صفت کی تیسری ڈگری سے پہلے۔

### Before the comparative degree:

7. Sometimes 'the' is used before the comparative degree of adjective.

Adjective کی دوسری ڈگری سے پہلے جب کہ اتنا کہ جتنا کا منہم پیدا کرنا مقصود ہو۔

- (i) The more, the merrier.

(جتنے زیادہ ہوں گے اتنی ہی زیادہ خوشی ہوگی)

- (ii) The higher you go, the cooler it is.

(جتنا زیادہ بلندی پر جاؤ گے اتنی ہی زیادہ سردی ہوگی)

### Before Proper Nouns:

8. 'The' is used before the following proper nouns.

The مندرجہ ذیل جگہوں پر استعمال ہوتا ہے۔

### Names of seas, rivers:

- (a) Before the names of seas, rivers (مشہور دریاؤں، سمندروں سے پہلے)

River, the Nile (دریائے نیل), the Indus (دریائے سندھ), The Red Sea, The Desert Gobi etc.

- (b) Before the names of group of Islands, chain of mountains, deserts, regions e.g.

The Himalayas (کوہ ہمالیہ), The Khyber Pass (درہ خیبر), The Sahara (صحرا)

### Religious Books:

- (c) Before the names of religious or classical books.

The Quran, The Bible, The Merchant of Venice.

اس کتابوں یا اہم مسلمہ کلاسیکی کتابوں سے پہلے۔

### Musical Instruments:

- (d) Before the musical Instruments

The flute (باتری), The piano.

ت موسیقی کے ناموں سے پہلے۔



**Newspapers:**

(a) Before the names of news papers

**Name of Nations:**

(a) Before the names of the nations

The Muslims, The Hindus,

**Trains, Planes and Ships:**

(a) Before the names of trains, planes and ships.

The Khyber mail, The Tezgam

(a) Before the Historical events (تاریخی واقعات سے پہلے)

The First World War, The French Revolution.

(a) Before the directions. (سمتوں سے پہلے)

The South (جنوب), The North (شمال)

**No article (a, an, the) is used before**

(a) Before the proper Nouns. (اسم معرفہ سے پہلے)

The Lahore, The Aslam, The Africa (x)

**Exception**

However, we use 'The' with 'the' names of republic kingdom and states e.g.

1. The United States of America. (Correct)

2. The Gulf of Mexico. (Correct)

We do not use 'the' before Mr./Mrs. Captain/Doctor. We say

Mr. Johnson

Doctor Johnson

We use the with plural names of people and places

**People:** The Johnsons (Johnson and the members of the family)

**Countries:** The Netherlands the Philippines, the United States

**Group of Islands:** The Canaries / the Canary Island, the Balamas

**Mountain ranges:** The Rocky Mountain, the Alps, the Himalayas

We do not use 'the' with a single mountain and lake.

Mount everest ✓

Lake Constance ✓

The Mount everest x

The Lake Constance x

We say the north (of Brazil) but northern Brazil (without the)

South-east (of Spain, but south-eastern Spain)

We also use north/south etc. without the in the name of some regions and countries.

Names of some regions and countries.

تمام اخبارات، رسالوں اور ناولوں کے نام سے پہلے۔

قوموں کے نام سے پہلے۔

ہوائی جہازوں، بحری جہازوں اور ٹرینوں کے ناموں سے پہلے۔

a, an, The مندرجہ ذیل جگہوں پر استعمال نہیں ہوتا۔



### North America

### South Africa

We also use 'the' with plural name e.g. the Netherlands, the West Indies, the Alps.  
The Soviet Union, The United States, The Federal Republic of Germany, The Congo.

- (b) Before material nouns. (دھاتوں یا اجناس کے ناموں سے پہلے) (Incorrect)  
X The gold, X the wheat, (Incorrect)  
The happiness, X the anger, X the falsehood.
- (c) Before the names of diseases. (Incorrect)  
X the cholera, X The heart attack, X The fever
- (d) Before names of months having universal meanings. (Incorrect)  
X The Heaven, X The Hell, X The God.  
(e) Before the nouns, X The April (اسم کیفیت سے پہلے) (Incorrect)  
X The Sunday, X The April  
(g) Before the nouns used in pairs. (Incorrect)  
Both the king and the queen went to the function. (Correct)  
Both king and queen went to the function.
- (h) Plural nouns used in general sense. (Incorrect)  
X the sheep, X The dogs, X The Buffalos and X The donkeys.
- (i) Before the names of the meals. (کھانوں کے ناموں سے پہلے) (Incorrect)  
I took the breakfast at 8 a.m. (Correct)  
I took breakfast at 8am (Correct)
- (j) With Man and Woman (Incorrect)  
The man is a social animal. (Correct)  
Man is a social animal. (Incorrect)  
A woman is cleverer than man. (Correct)  
Woman is cleverer than man.
- (k) Before the name of languages. (Incorrect)  
I speak the English at home. (Correct)  
I speak English at home.
- (l) Relations (Incorrect)  
The mother gave birth to me. (Correct)  
Mother gave birth to me. (Incorrect)  
The children make every home a happy place. (Correct)  
Children make every home a happy place.
- (m) Name of buildings (Correct)  
We use zero articles when we talk about institutions such 'as hospital, university, prison, school, college or church' for their intended purpose, medical treatment in hospital, studying in university. We use an article when we talk about them as particular places or buildings.  
School, hospital, university, college, chapel, market, office, church.



The article تو نہیں استعمال کیا جائے لے استعمال ہوتا ہے۔

1. I went to the hospital to see my friend.
2. I went to hospital for treatment.

پہلے فقرے سے واضح ہے کہ ہسپتال کی بلڈنگ میں گیا۔  
دوسرے فقرے سے واضح ہے کہ وہ علاج کیلئے گیا۔ ہسپتال کا بنیادی مقصد بھی علاج مہیا کرنا ہوتا ہے۔

3. She is at university studying French.
4. Saleem works as a guard in the university.
- We talk about bed in the same way.
1. She stays in bed till late at the weekend.
2. She left her shoes on the bed.

### Exercise No. 19

(a) Fill in the blanks with a, an, the

1. He caught me by \_\_\_\_\_ neck.
2. The man is \_\_\_\_\_ Newton of his time.
3. Both \_\_\_\_\_ girls are pretty.
4. I should like to buy \_\_\_\_\_ pair of shoes and \_\_\_\_\_ couple of coats.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ dinner is ready.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Quran is \_\_\_\_\_ holy book.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ pen is mightier than \_\_\_\_\_ sword.
8. English is \_\_\_\_\_ language of \_\_\_\_\_ English.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Hindus worship idols.
10. Spare \_\_\_\_\_ rod and spoil \_\_\_\_\_ child.
11. Many \_\_\_\_\_ flower is withered away.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ older we grow, \_\_\_\_\_ wiser we become.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ sun sets in \_\_\_\_\_ West.
14. Alps is \_\_\_\_\_ highest mountain in Europe.
15. He saw \_\_\_\_\_ elderly man with \_\_\_\_\_ stick in his hand.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ elephant entered into his shop yesterday.
17. She is \_\_\_\_\_ untidy girl.
18. He is not \_\_\_\_\_ honourable man.
19. He looks as stupid as \_\_\_\_\_ owl.
20. Which is \_\_\_\_\_ longest river in Pakistan.

(b) Put in a/an/the where necessary

1. It's a beautiful day. Let's sit in \_\_\_\_\_ garden.
2. I am going away for \_\_\_\_\_ week in September.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ sun is a star.
4. What did you have for \_\_\_\_\_ fast morning?
5. We had \_\_\_\_\_ very nice lunch.
6. There are millions of stars in \_\_\_\_\_ space.
7. He reached the college in \_\_\_\_\_ hour.
8. He is \_\_\_\_\_ honourable citizen of Pakistan.
9. What \_\_\_\_\_ horrible thing to say!
10. Yes, that's not much of \_\_\_\_\_ problem.

(c) Correct the following.

1. It is time to go the bed now.
2. My shoes were found on bed.
3. He went to prison to visit his brother.
4. He is in the prison because he is a prisoner.



5. How do your children get home from school?
  6. He goes to church to take some photographs.
  7. The English is the language of the English.
  8. The Mount Everest is the highest peak of the Himalayas.
  9. Can you play guitar?
  10. Rich should help poor.
- (d) Encircle one sentence with the correct use of article in each part.
1. (a) I met the Arab on a road.  
(c) I met the Arab on the road.
  2. (a) West Indies is a Island.  
(c) The Wes Indies is an Island.
  3. (a) He looks as stupid as an owl  
(c) He looks as stupid as the owl
  4. (a) Would you like apple?  
(c) Would you like the apple?
  5. (a) I have problem, can you help me?  
(c) I have the problem, can you help me?  
(d) I have an problem, can you help me?
  6. (a) The gold is a costly metal.  
(c) Gold is a costly metal.
  7. (a) Could you close door, please?  
(c) Could you close a door, please?
  8. (a) Excuse me, where is bus station, please?  
(b) Excuse me, where is a bus station, please?  
(c) Excuse me, where is the bus station, please?  
(d) Excuse me where is some bus station, please?
  9. (a) What's wrong with you? Have you got headache?  
(b) What's wrong with you? Have you got a headache?  
(c) What's wrong with you? Have your got the headache?  
(d) What's wrong with you? Have you got an headache
  10. (a) The Mount Everest is the highest peak in the world.  
(b) Mount Everest is a highest peak in the world.  
(c) The Mount Everest is highest peak in the world.  
(d) Mount Everest is the highest peak in the world.

### Key

1.	d	2.	c	3.	a	4.	b	5.	b
6.	c	7.	b	8.	c	9.	b	10.	d