

### 1.2.4 Articles -Examples with explanations

Articles tell us something about the noun that follows. Thus, they behave like adjectives. In English, there are two types of articles: the indefinite article (a/an) and the definite article (the).

**A. Indefinite Articles:** Indefinite articles such as *a/an* are used before countable nouns which are singular in number.

1. All those countable nouns which begin with vowels and have **vowel sounds** such as apple, orange, engine etc. take the article *an*.
  - (i) Give me *an apple* to eat.
  - (ii) Would you like to take *an orange*?
  - (iii) Rajesh is *an engineer*.
  - (iv) He is always with *an excuse*.
  - (v) He met with *an accident*.
2. Words starting with **conventional consonant letters** (h, f, l, m, n, r, s, & x) but with **vowel sounds** such as FIR, honest, heir, MLA, NCC, RTO, SDM, X-ray etc also start with the article *an*.
  - (i) Dr. Amir is *an honest* man.
  - (ii) We lodged *an FIR* against the thief.
  - (iii) We will be back in *an hour*.
  - (iv) My son is *an MA* from Nagpur University.
  - (v) I was *an NCC* cadet in my schooldays.
  - (vi) The doctor gave *an X-ray* report to the patient.
3. Words starting with conventional **vowel letters** (e,u) but with **consonant sounds** will take *a* and not *an*.
  - (i) The poet wrote *a eulogy* for the village priest.
  - (ii) We have grown *a eucalyptus tree* in the orchard.
  - (iii) This play is *a one-man show*.
  - (iv) He is *a university* employee.
  - (v) This is *a useful* exercise.
4. *A* is used before **a countable, singular noun** and names of professions, trades or class.
  - (i) I met *a blind man* in the street.
  - (ii) We bought *a new car*.
  - (iii) She wants to become *a nurse*.
  - (iv) I have known him as *a astrologer*.

5. *A* is used with expressions that state a unit of measurement.
  - (i) I bought *a cup* of tea.
  - (ii) I have told you *a thousand times*.
  - (iii) Butter costs Rs 50 *a pound*.
  - (iv) Please buy *a meter* of red cloth.
6. *A* is also used as a **quantifier** such as lot, number, little, great etc.
  - (i) He has brought *a lot of money* from England.
  - (ii) Give me *a little* time please.
  - (iii) The incident aroused *a great deal* of curiosity.
7. *A* is also used with a countable singular noun to refer the entire class of which it is a member.
  - (i) *A doctor* is the god on earth.
  - (ii) *A prophet* is not honoured in his country.
  - (iii) *A women* is shy by nature.
8. No **articles** are used (a) to refer to a means of transport (b) to refer an institution serving a particular purpose (c) before regular meals (d) before parallel structures (e) before nouns which have a general reference.
  - (i) We are going by *train*.
  - (ii) Take him to *hospital* right now.
  - (iii) Will you please wait for *lunch*?
  - (iv) His condition improved *day by day*.
  - (v) *Man* is mortal.

**B. Definite Article:** The definite article, *the* is used both with countable as well as uncountable nouns. Following are some of the situations where the definite articles become compulsory.

1. When a noun has an earlier reference, then *the* is used.
  - (i) I saw a red car. *The car* belonged to the bank manager.
  - (ii) An ambulance hit a pedestrian. *The pedestrian* died on the way to hospital.
2. If a countable singular noun is used for generalization, then *the* is used.
  - (i) *The cow* is worshipped in India.
  - (ii) *The camel* is the ship of the desert.
3. *The* is used, if a noun is qualified by the **superlative form of an adjective**
  - (i) Mt. Everest is *the highest* peak in the world
  - (ii) This is *the most interesting* book I have ever read.
4. Words such as universe, world, sky, sun, moon, equator, horizon, names of all planets such as earth; names of all seas, rivers, oceans, names of all mountains, peaks, deserts etc. always take the definite article as they are identifiable.
  - (i) *The earth* moves around the sun.
  - (ii) *The sea* is very rough today.
  - (iii) *The Ganges* is the longest river in India.



5. a. It is used with the following expressions of time:

- (i) I go to the office *in the morning*.
- (ii) We regularly go for walk *in the evening*.

b. However, if the preposition *in* is replaced by *at*, then the definite article is not used

- (i) I woke up *at* dawn.
- (ii) Let us have a meeting *at* noon.

6. *The* is used with the names of newspapers

- (i) I have recently subscribed for *The Times of India*.
- (ii) My father loves to read only *The Statesman*.

7. Definite article is used if a proper noun is pluralized to refer to more members of a person's family, and the family name is made plural.

- (i) *The Reddy brothers* have migrated to Japan.
- (ii) *The Khans* have started a new business.

### 1.2.5 Prepositions - Examples with explanations

A preposition is a word used with a noun / pronoun to show how the person or thing denoted by the noun or pronoun stands in relation to something else. Often students make prepositional errors while speaking as well as writing. For example -we often hear students saying "Congratulations *for* your success". The correct form is "Congratulations *on* your success". A few rules regarding the usage of prepositions are given below:

1. When the object of the preposition is the relative pronoun *that*, the preposition is always placed at the end.

- (i) Here is the book that you *asked for*.
- (ii) Such a result cannot be *thought of*.

2. *In* is used with names of countries and large towns; *at* is more often used when speaking of small towns and villages.

- (i) We live *in* Nagpur.
- (ii) He lives *at* Tumsar.

*In* and *at* are used in speaking of things at rest; *to* and *into* are used in speaking of things in motion.

- (i) Tuhin is tired and *in* bed.
- (ii) He ran *to* school.

*With* often denotes the instrument; and *by* the agent.

- (i) He killed the two birds *with* one shot.
- (ii) He was stabbed *by* a lunatic *with* a dagger.

We are always *angry with* a person, but *angry about* something.

- (i) I'm pretty *angry with* you for not telling me.
- (ii) What are you so *angry about*?

Synonyms & antonyms of **angry** also take the same prepositions-*with* a person and *about* something with them. For example: Synonyms of angry such as *anger, furious, cross, upset,*

*annoyed, disappointed, disgusted* and antonyms of *angry* such as *pleased, impressed, glad* etc. also take the same preposition with them.

6. The verb *apologize* takes the preposition *for*. The synonyms & antonyms of *apologize* such as *sorry, forgive* (synonyms), *appreciate* (antonym) etc. also take the preposition *for* after it.
  - (i) I must *apologize for* being late.
  - (ii) Did Sujatha feel *sorry for* her rudeness last night?
7. Both *at* and *by* are used as prepositions with the word *astonish*. All synonyms of *astonish* such as *aghast, startled, shocked, surprised, astounded* etc. also take the same preposition.
  - (i) We were all *astonished at* your failure in the examinations.
  - (ii) We were all *astonished by* your failure in the examinations.
8. We are *anxious about* (worried about) something, but *anxious for* + a noun (eager for) or *anxious to* + do something (wanting).
  - (i) I'm getting *anxious about* money.
  - (ii) We are all *anxious for* an end to this misunderstanding.
  - (iii) She's *anxious to* find a better job.
9. We are always *good* or *bad at* activities and not *in*. All synonyms & antonyms of *bad* also take the same preposition.
  - (i) I'm *bad at* drawing.
  - (ii) Are you *good at* tennis?
10. We *believe in* God (to have faith in) but *believe a person* or a statement (accept as truthful).
  - (i) I *believe in* my religion.
  - (ii) I don't *believe a word* she says.
11. We become *blue with* cold or *green with* envy.
  - (i) She was *red with embarrassment* when called.
  - (ii) My father was *white with rage* when he heard my results.
  - (iii) The teacher was *red with anger* when the student back answered.
12. People *die 'of'* illness and not '*for*'.
  - (i) Many people *died of* Malaria in Orissa.
  - (ii) That man *died of* old age.