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### **ARTICLE**

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The three words 'A', 'An' and 'The' are called Articles. Articles are used before a noun. In modern English Grammar, articles are also called determiners.

INDEFINITE ARTICLE: 'A' and 'An' are called indefinite articles as they do not denote a definite or particular person or thing spoken of.

Ex: A dog was barking at night.(any dog)

There was an apple on the table.(any apple)

**DEFINITE ARTICLE**: 'The' is definite article as it refers to a particular or definite person or thing spoken of.

Ex: This is the pen which I have bought.(a particular pen)

The house in which I live is new.(a particular house)

### DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'A' and 'An'

Both 'a' and 'an' denote a singular number but the difference between them is that 'a' is used before words starting with consonant sound and 'an' is used before words starting

with vowel sound. Ex: I have a expensive car. (\*) I have an expensive car. (✓) This was an one man show. (\*) This was a one man show.  $(\checkmark)$ A.E. I. O.U

#### USES OF INDEFINITE ARTICLE

### Use of "An"

- 1. Before words beginning with vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u) W Ex: an apple, an owl, an umbrella
- 2.Before words beginning with silent 'h'

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Ex: an hour, an heir, an honourable man, an honest man

- 3. F, H, L, M, N, R, S, X are letters that are not vowels but begin with vowel sound. So 'an' is used before words beginning with these letters.
- Ex: an S.P, an M.L.A, an F.I.R, an X ray

### Use of 'A'

1.Before words beginning with consonant sounds.

Ex: a boy, a chair, a one rupee note(since 'one' begins with sound 'w')

2. With certain expressions of quantity.

Ex: a lot of, a couple of, a great deal of

3. When two subjects or things are thought of as a single unit, article is used before the first subject.

Ex: He was ready with a cup & a saucer. (\*)

He was ready with a cup and saucer. (✓)

He introduced me to his friend who is a singer and a scientist. (\*)

He introduced me to his friend who is a singer and scientist. (✓)

a, an I.D U Sinsular ~ plural X court a boy v U.C X a WOWAX CONSONORY SOUND . - O vowel sound - an

sim / pland 1 count I the buy U-Count - me worm

### USE OF A / AN

- 1. European W en
- 2. An egg on
- 3. one eyed man
- 4. An owl or 2m
- 5. An umbrella ació
- 6. \_\_\_ university w
- 7. \_\_\_ unique man \( \alpha \)
- 8. An heir of
- 9. \_\_\_\_honourable man
- 10. <u>a</u> nest 0.5
- 11. An NRI OW

Son F A SP OM 13. An An MLA 00 14. 15. A mug U X ray origin 16. Bn 17. MA degree An Nie

### **USES OF DEFINITE ARTICLE (The)**

1. When we speak of a particular person or thing referred to.

Ex: The boy I met at the station was very intelligent.(particular boy)

2. When a singular noun represents a whole class.

Ex: The rose is the sweetest of all flowers.

The cow is a useful animal.

Note: The nouns 'man' and 'woman' do not take 'the' before them, if they are used to represent the whole class)

Ex: Man is mortal.

## 3. With certain books.

Ex: The Vedas, The Bible, The Ramayana

## 4. With parts of body.

Ex: The eyes, The head, The nose

## 5. With names of rivers, mountains, islands, seas

Ex: The Ganga, The Himalayas, The Arabian sea

ATF + Adj+ N

### 6. With superlatives

Ex:He is the best boy in the class.

She is the tallest girl in the family.

### 7. With ordinals

Ex: The first chapter of the book is interesting.

Our class is on the second floor.

#### 8.Before Comparative degree

He is the better of the two boys.

Remark: If 'than' is used to express comparative degree, the article 'the' is not used with comparative degree.

Ex: He is better than the two boys.  $(\checkmark)$ 

He is the better of the two boys.  $(\checkmark)$ 

Note:

- a) The higher you go, cooler you feel.
- b) Greater the demand, the higher the price.
- c) The more electricity you use, higher your bill will be.

# Note:

- 1. A Mr. Ram has come to meet me.
- 2. Mr. Ram has come to meet me.
- 3. The Newton was a great scientist.
- 4. He is the Newton of our class.
- 5. The Shakespeare was a great dramatist.
- 6. Kalidas was the Shakespeare of India.
- 7. Judge in him prevailed upon and he sentenced his own son to death.

### **OMISSION OF ARTICLES**

 Articles are not used with organisations/institutions like schools, colleges, temples, churches, jail etc, if they are used for their primary purposes.

Ex: After returning from **the jail**, he abandoned all criminal activities. (\*)
After returning from **jail**, he abandoned all criminal activities. (\*)

Ex: I go to school everyday.

Here. 'school' has been used for its primary purpose, so article is not used.

Ex: I went to the school to drop my brother.

Here, 'school' has not been used for its primary purpose, so article is used.

2. No use of article before sunset, sunrise, daybreak, dawn, dusk, night, noon, today, yesterday, tomorrow.

Ex: I will meet you at a night. (\*)

I will meet you at night. (✓)

3. When we talk about a person or thing in general sense, <u>no article</u> is used. But when a person or thing is particularised, article is used,

Ex: Man is mortal.(General sense)

I saw the man in the forest.

Water is essential for life.(General sense)

The water of the river is dirty.

Gold is a precious metal.(General sense)

The gold of this ring is of inferior quality.

The party was in the night

4. No article with certain idiomatic phrases like – in danger, in demand, on fire, in problem, by mistake, in detail, in conclusion, in difficulty, in hope, by train, in confusion, in debt, in anger etc.

Ex: The house was on a fire. (\*)
The house was on fire. (✓)

5. No use of articles before most proper nouns (names of persons, countries, cities, continent etc)

Ex: My friend will come from India. (✓)

My friend will come from the U.S.A. (✓)

**Remark**: Certain countries like U.S.A, U.S, U.A.E take the article 'the' before them.

6. No article is used before the names of languages.

Ex: He studied the English at home. (\*)

He studied English at home. (✓)

Ex: The English defeated the French. (✓)

Here, The English refers to 'The British'

- 1) He went to jail/the jail to repair the gates
- 2) The America, The USA, The England, The UK, The UAE
- The Tamil Nadu, The Punjab
- 4) I speak the English
- 5) The English The British (The people of England)
- 6) The French speak the French
- 7) The English is spoken by the English 🛹
- 8) The English opens the door for World communication
  - A) The Englishman

    ≺
  - B) The English language
  - C) English
  - D) No improvement ➤

In a difficulty < In difficulty  $\checkmark$ In a problem 💉 In problem In a serious problem 🛹 On fire < On a fire x In debt 🖊 In a debt 🔈

In confusion  $\checkmark$ In a dilemma 🦯 In an anger 🔀 In anger In temper In a temper 🗙 In a bad mood