



Article

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UNDERSTAND ARTICLES

The adjectives *a* or *an* and *the* are usually called **Articles**.

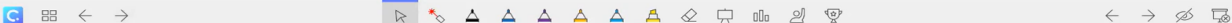
There are two articles – *a* (or *an*) and *the*


A or *An* is called the **Indefinite Article**, because it usually leaves indefinite the person or thing spoken of; as, a doctor, that is, any doctor.


The is called the **Definite Article**, because it normally points out some particular person or thing; as, He saw *the* doctor; meaning some particular doctor.



Tanvir Afroz



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UNDERSTAND ARTICLES

ARTICLES

Indefinite


Definite

The indefinite article is used before singular countable nouns
E.g., a book, an orange, a girl

The definite article is used before singular countable nouns, plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns
E.g., the book, the books, the milk

Note: Identify whether the noun is singular or plural, countable or uncountable and then decide which article to use for it.

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UNDERSTAND ARTICLES

INDEFINITE

When to use 'a'

When to use 'an'

The choice between *a* and *an* is determined by *sound*. Before a word beginning with a vowel sound *an* is used; as,
An enemy, an orange, an umbrella, an hour, an honest man

Hour, honest begin with a vowel sound since 'h' is silent.

Before a word beginning with a consonant sound *a* is used; as,
A boy, a woman, a horse, a university, a useful article

University, useful begin with a consonant 'yu'.

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DEFINITE ARTICLES

The Definite Article *the* is used –

- (1) When we talk about a particular person or thing, or one already referred to. E.g., *The book* you want is out of print. (Which book? The one you want)
- (2) Before some proper names, viz., these kinds of place names:
 - a) Oceans, seas and rivers [*The Pacific, The Red Sea, The Ganga*]
 - b) Very few names of countries which include words like republic and kingdom [*The Irish Republic, The United Kingdom*]
- (3) Before musical instruments; as, He can play *the flute*.
- (4) With superlatives; as, *The darkest cloud* has a silver lining.



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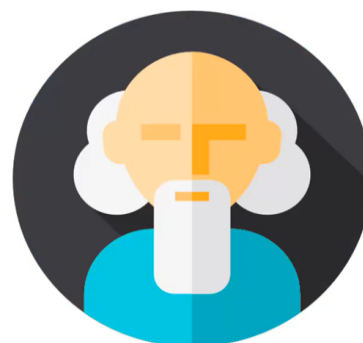
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INDEFINITE ARTICLES

The Indefinite Article is used –

- (1) In its original numerical sense of one; as, Not a word was said.
- (2) In the vague sense of a *certain*; as, One evening a beggar came to my door.
- (3) In the sense of *any*, to single out an individual as the representative of a class; as, A cow is a useful animal.
- (4) To make a common noun of a proper noun; as, A Daniel come to judgement! (A Daniel = a very wise man)



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OMISSION OF ARTICLES

The article is omitted –

- 1) Before names of substances and abstract nouns; as, Sugar is bad for your teeth, Honesty is the best policy
- 2) Before most proper nouns except for the ones spoken of; as, Gopal, Rahim, Nagpur, Mount Everest
- 3) Before names of meals; as, lunch, dinner
- 4) Before languages; as, English, Punjabi
- 5) Before names of relations; as, father, mother, aunt



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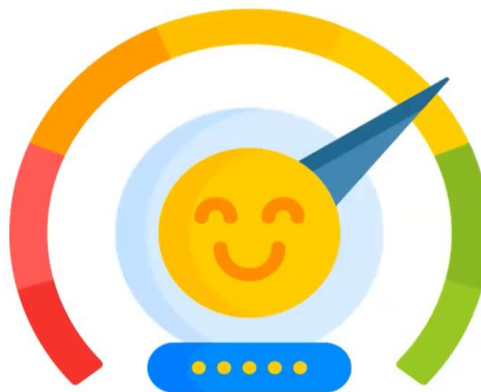
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LET'S EXERCISE

1. Copper is ____ useful metal.
2. He is not ____ honourable man.
3. Honest man speak ____ truth.
4. Rustum is ____ young Parsee.
5. Do you see ____ blue sky?
6. The world is ____ happy place.
7. He returned after ____ hour.
8. ____ Ganga is ____ sacred river.
9. Who is ____ girl sitting there?
10. Sanskrit is ____ difficult language.



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LET'S EXERCISE

1. Copper is a useful metal. ⁴⁴ a / an / the
2. He is not a honourable man. ⁴⁴ a / an / the
3. Honest man speak the truth. ⁴⁴ a / an / the
4. Rustum is a young Parsee. ⁴⁴ a / an / the
5. Do you see the blue sky? ⁴⁴ a / an / the
6. The world is a happy place. ⁴⁴ a / an / the
7. He returned after a hour. ⁴⁴ a / an / the
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9. Who is the girl sitting there? ⁴⁴ a / an / the
10. Sanskrit is a difficult language. ⁴⁴ a / an / the



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