

Articles

In English language there are three articles. They are: "A", "An" and "The". **These three articles are divided into two parts:**

- (i) Indefinite Articles – "a" and "an"
- (ii) Definite Article - "the"

Indefinite Articles "A" and "An"

'A' is used before a word which starts with a consonant or a vowel which sounds like a consonant.

➤ **Example**

A book, a pen, a chair, a one rupee note, etc.

"An" is used before a word which starts with a vowel or a consonant which sounds like a vowel.

➤ **Example**

An apple, an egg, an honest man, etc.

See the following examples:

A one eyed man

Here "a" is used before "one" because "one" sounds like Wone or Vone which is a consonant.

A university

Here University sounds like Yuniversity which is a consonant.

An M.L.A.

Here M.L.A. sounds like Am al a' which is a vowel.

See some other uses of indefinite articles.

1. We use "a/an" when we use noun/pronoun for the first time in a sentence.
He is wearing **a** suit and **a** tie.
They have **a** cat.
2. We use "a/an" to say what kind of person or thing someone or something is (often with an adjective or to say it belongs to a particular group).
You have **a** nice house.
That's **a** very expensive car!
A cat is **an** animal a bus is **a** vehicle.
3. We use "a/an" to talk about someone's job.
My wife is **an** optician.
She works as **a** mechanic.

Remember

- (i) Indefinite Article are not used with uncountable noun.
- (ii) Article is not used before the name of games. For example: She plays ludo.
- (iii) Article is not used before some diseases like cholera, malaria, fever and typhoid, etc.
- (iv) Article is not used before the name of festivals.
- (v) Article is not used before plural Countable Nouns when they indicate a class.
- (vi) No article is used before the names of language.
- (vii) No article is used before Proper Noun, Material Noun and Abstract Nouns.

Definite Article "The"

Definite Article: Definite Article (the) points out a particular person, animal, thing or place.

1. "The" is used before a noun beginning with a consonant or a vowel sound.
For example:

 "The apple you ate was rotten."
 "Did you lock **the** car?"
2. The is used when you have already mentioned the thing you are talking about.
For example: **Ashoka was a king. The king was great.**
3. We use "the" to talk about geographical points on the globe.
For example: The North Pole, the equator, etc.
4. We also use "the" before certain nouns when we know there is only one of a particular thing.
For example:
 The rain, the sun, the wind, the world, the earth, the White House etc.
However, if you want to describe a particular instance of these you should use "a/an".
For example:
 "I could hear the wind." / "There's a cold wind blowing".
 "What are your plans for the future?" / "She has a promising future ahead of her."
5. "The" is also used to say that a particular person or thing being mentioned is the best, most famous, etc. In this use, "the" is usually given strong pronunciation:
For example:
 "Harry's Bar is **the** place to go."
 "You don't mean you met **the** Tony Blair, do you?"

Determiners

Those words which modify in some manner the nouns with which they are used are called determiners.
See the following examples:

1. I have got a friend in Paris.
2. Evans has little knowledge about astronomy.
3. These apples are not rotten.
4. Have you seen my wallet