

Kinds of Articles

There are **two** kinds of Articles —

(i) Indefinite Article—**A** or **An**

(ii) Definite Article—**The**

Indefinite Article (**A/An**) shows indefiniteness and Definite Article (**The**) shows definiteness.

Articles (**A, An, The**) are used before Nouns under some rules. When a Singular Countable Noun is used for the first time, **Article A or An** is used before it. But when a Countable Noun, whether Singular or Plural, is used for a definite thing, or refers to a thing or person that has already been referred to earlier, **Article The** is used before it. Thus when a Singular Countable Noun is used for the first time, Article **a** or **an** is used before it, but when the same noun is repeated in the same sentence or in the subsequent sentences, Article **The** is used before it because then it becomes a definite thing already referred to earlier. As—

1. I have **a** book. **The** book is very informative.
2. I have **a** book, though **the** book is not very informative.
3. There was **a** house. **The** house was very large.
4. There was **a** house and **the** house was very large.

Singular Indefinite Noun	A or An
Singular/Plural Definite Noun	The

Forms of Indefinite Article

Indefinite Article has two forms—**A** and **An**. Which one of these two forms will be used before a certain Noun depends upon the spellings, sound or pronunciation of the Noun under reference. The following are its rules—

(i) Article **A** is used before Nouns of which the spellings begin with a consonant. As—

A boy, **a** table, **a** house, **a** book.

(ii) Article **A** is also used before words which begin with a vowel but are pronounced as with a consonant. As—

A European, **a** unique chance, **a** one-rupee note, **a** usual sight, **a** universal truth.

Such other words are—University, utensil, uniform, union, unity, unit, united, unitarian, useful, one.

Note—You will see that all these words begin with the sound of **y** or **w** (which are consonants) and not with the sound of any vowel.

(iii) Article **An** is used before those words which begin with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u). As—

An enemy, **an** ox, **an** inkpot, **an** ass.

(iv) Article **An** is also used before those words which begin with silent / mute **h**. As—

an hour, **an** honourable man, **an** honest person.

Such other words are—heir, heiress, heirloom, honest, honesty, honorarium, honorary, honour, honourable, hour, hourly.

Note—Earlier **humble, humility, hotel, hostel, hospital** were also supposed to begin with silent **h**, and article **an** was used before them. But now these words are pronounced with the consonant sound of **h**, and therefore article **a** is used before them.

(v) Some **Abbreviations** are there which are pronounced with a Vowel sound and therefore article **an** is used before them. As—

an M. A.; **an** M. P.; **an** M. L. A.; **an** F. I. R.; **an** S. D. O.; **an** H. M. T.; **an** R. T. O. etc.

Note—If the above noted Abbreviations are used in their full form, they take article **a**. As—

A Member of Parliament (**an** M. P.)

A Master of Arts (**an** M. A.)

Exercise

Fill in the blanks with a/an in the following sentences :

1. He is University Professor.
2. The workers have formed union.
3. Here is egg.
4. He is M. A. in English.
5. I want to purchase H. M. T. watch.
6. He gave the beggar one-rupee note.
7. This is usual sight.
8. This is useful medicine.
9. We shall stay in hotel.
10. There is hospital in our colony.
11. He reached there hour late.
12. I have to make humble proposal.
13. This is honorary job.
14. My brother is M. P.
15. He is strong like ox.
16. boy is waiting for you.
17. He wrote article for the paper.
18. There is inkpot on the table.

Hints—(1) a; (2) a; (3) an; (4) an; (5) an; (6) a; (7) a; (8) a; (9) a; (10) a; (11) an; (12) a; (13) an; (14) an; (15) an; (16) A; (17) an; (18) an.

(i) Use of Indefinite Article—‘A’/ ‘An’

The following are the rules of correct use of Indefinite Article **A** or **An** :—

Rule 1—Singular Countable Noun

When a **Singular Countable Noun** is used for the first time, Article **A** or **An** is used before it. As—

1. I have **a** book.
2. He is **a** boy.
3. There is **an** eagle.
4. Delhi is **a** city.

Rule 2—When a Singular Countable Noun represents a whole class, Article **A**, or **An** is used before it. As—

1. **A** cow has horns. (*i.e.*, All cows have horns.)
2. **An** eagle flies very high. (*i.e.*, All eagles fly very high.)
3. **A** dog is a faithful animal.
4. **A** rose smells very sweet.

Rule 3—Article **A** or **An** is used before a Noun Complement. As—

1. He is **a** lawyer.
2. He became **a** great sportsman.
3. She is **an** expert in this field.
4. You are **a** good companion.

Rule 4—**a/an + Adjective/Adverb + Noun**

If an Adjective /Adverb comes before a Noun, Article **A** or **An** is used before the Adjective / Adverb, and its form is determined by the nearest word. As—

1. She is **a beautiful** girl.
2. He is **an honest** man.
3. He is **a very honest** man.
4. This is **an old rare** book.

Rule 5—**a/an + more than one Noun**

- (a) When more than one Noun or Adjective points to one Person or Thing only, Article **A** or **An** is used before the first word only, and its form is also determined by the same first word.
 - (b) But if they point to different Persons or Things, Article **A** or **An** is used before each word, and its form is determined by each word separately. As—
1. He gave me **a red and blue** pencil. (Only one pencil)
 2. He gave me **a red and a blue** pencil. (Two pencils)
 3. Here is **an ugly and foolish** man. (One person)
 4. Here is **an ugly and a foolish** man. (Two persons)

Exercise

Correct the following sentences :

1. She has beautiful toy.
2. I take egg every morning with breakfast.
3. I saw large a lion in the zoo.
4. Elephant has a long trunk.
5. Hungry lion would attack.

6. Duck swims on water.
7. Eagle is a bird of prey.
8. My father is doctor.
9. His brother is a M. P.
10. He has become great a man.
11. He is an very industrious student.
12. Shakespeare is renowned dramatist.
13. This is a ancient monument.
14. He lives in old ancestral a house.
15. My teacher is a poet and a novelist.
16. A poet and novelist write differently.
17. He is honest and a dependable man.
18. There can be no friendship between a clever and selfish man.

Hints—(1) a beautiful; (2) an egg; (3) a large lion; (4) An elephant; (5) A hungry lion; (6) A duck; (7) An eagle; (8) a doctor; (9) an M. P.; (10) a great man; (11) a very; (12) a renowned; (13) an ancient; (14) an old ancestral house; (15) a poet and novelist; (16) a novelist; (17) an honest and dependable; (18) a selfish man.

Rule 6—Such + a/an

When **such** is used with a Countable Noun, Article **A** or **An** is used after **such**. As—

1. I have never seen **such a beautiful** picture. (not **a such beautiful**)
2. **Such a** thing has never happened before.
3. It was **such a** fine show.
4. He gave us **such a** pleasant surprise.

Rule 7—So + Adjective + a/an + Noun

When **so** comes before an Adjective, Article **A** or **An** is used between the Noun and Adjective. As—

1. I have never seen **so beautiful a** picture. (not **a so beautiful picture**)
2. It was **so fine a** show.
3. He gave us **so pleasant a** surprise.
4. I have never read **so interesting a** novel.

Rule 8—Exclamations

Article **A** or **An** is used before a Singular Countable Noun in **Exclamatory sentences** also. As—

1. What **a** hot day !
2. What **a** cruel act !
3. What **a** pretty child !
4. What **a** good chance !

Rule 9—Numerical expressions

Article **A** or **An** is used before some **Numerical Expressions** also. The more common of such expressions are—

a couple, a dozen, a score, a hundred, a thousand, a million, a lot of, a great many of, etc. As—

1. **A** couple of people were there.
2. He gave me **a** thousand rupees.
3. **A** great many visitors had turned up.
4. **A** score of houses had been damaged.

Rule 10—Expressions of price, speed, ratio, etc.

Article **A** or **An** is also used with expressions of price, speed, ratio, etc. As—

1. The train is running at ninety kilometers **an hour**.
2. Bananas are available at ten rupees **a dozen**.
3. Sugar sells at ten rupees **a kilogram**.
4. Colour and water are mixed at **a ratio** of one to five.
5. Take this medicine three times **a day**.

Rule 11—a/an + Mr./Mrs./Miss + Surname

If we know only the surname of a person, and know nothing more, we use Article **A** or **An** before the surname. As—

1. **A Mr. Sharma** came in the morning.
2. I met **a Mrs. Peters** in the train.
3. **A Miss Renick** is a regular visitor here.
4. **A Ms. Puri** is waiting for you.

Rule 12—A few/a little

We should use **a few** for a small number, and **a little** for small quantity. As—

1. Here is **a little** milk.
2. Here are **a few** pencils.
3. He is **a little** tired.
4. There is **a little** time left.

Rule 13—a/an with some phrases

Article **A** or **An** is also used before some typical expressions. The more common of them are—

to make **a noise**, to take **a fancy** to, to have **a headache/a pain**, to take **a liking** to, to have **a cold**, to have **a mind**, to have **an eye** to, to make **a fire**, to be in **a hurry**, to be in **a temper**, to have **a taste** for.

Exercise**Correct the following sentences :**

1. I have never gone to a such place.
2. A such accident never occurred before.
3. It gave us such rude shock.
4. I have never seen such attractive a picture.
5. He has given me a so beautiful prize.
6. We never believed he could do so a cruel deed.
7. It was so exciting match.
8. What noble deed was done !
9. A what shame was it !
10. How a vast desert was there !
11. He gave them lot of books.
12. We saw score of houses in the new colony.
13. He earns an about thousand rupees per month.
14. Rajdhani Express runs at a speed of 200 kilometers hour.
15. I go on my tours twice week.
16. Wheat sells at four rupees kilogram.
17. There is a call from Miss Sharma.
18. Mr. Wahi is waiting for you.
19. I saw him little while ago.
20. There are only few books left.
21. We found him little upset.
22. He has caught severe cold.
23. He is rather in hurry.
24. Please don't make noise.
25. I have mind to purchase this scooter.

Hints—(1) such a place; (2) such an accident; (3) such a; (4) such an attractive; (5) so beautiful a; (6) so cruel a; (7) so exciting a; (8) a noble deed; (9) What a; (10) How vast a; (11) a lot of; (12) a score of; (13) about a thousand; (14) an hour; (15) a week; (16) a kilogram; (17) a Miss Sharma; (18) A Mr. Wahi; (19) a little while; (20) a few books; (21) a little; (22) a severe; (23) a hurry; (24) a noise; (25) a mind.

Exercise : Revision

Tell whether the use of article a/an in the following sentences is right or wrong. If wrong, correct it.

1. He is a very honourable man.
2. He is a N. C. C. officer.
3. He is a extremely liberal man.
4. A cobra is poisonous.
5. He is a blind and a lame man.
6. I saw a blind and a lame man.
7. She is such a cultured girl.
8. She is a such cultured a girl.
9. She is such cultured girl.
10. It was so a wonderful sight.
11. It was a so wonderful sight.
12. It was so wonderful a sight.
13. What a beautiful catch !
14. What beautiful a catch !
15. He will get a couple of chances more.
16. He will get a couples of chances more.
17. I can drive at an 80 kilometers hour.
18. Few a men are still there.
19. I have a liking for a old model.
20. Please make an fire.
21. I found him in bad a temper.
22. I am in no a hurry.

(II) Article—‘The’

Article **The** is used under the following Rules and conditions—

Rule 1—Definite Person or Thing

As has been explained above at the beginning of this Chapter, Article **The** is used before a definitely specified person or thing. In other words, **the** is used before a person or a thing which has already been referred to earlier, or which has been specified in some other way. As—

1. This is **the house** in which my friend lives.
(Here **a house** cannot be used because the house has been specified as the one where my friend lives.)
2. **The place** where I was born is far away from here.

3. This is **the book** I purchased yesterday.
4. He is **the gentleman** whom I introduced to you last year.

Rule 2—Before all those Common Nouns which are **only one** or believed to be only one, but which are not Proper Nouns. As—

1. **The earth** is round.
2. **The sky** is blue.
3. **The sun** has risen.
4. **The moon** shines.

Rule 3—Before all those Singular Nouns which represent their whole class. As—

1. **The cow** is a gentle animal.
2. **The rose** is a sweet smelling flower.
3. **The apple** is good for children.
4. **The horse** lives on grass.

Note—But Article **the** is not used before **Man**, **Woman**, or **Mankind** even if they may represent the whole class. As—

Man is a social animal. (Not **The man**)

Woman is man's partner. (Not **The woman**)

Rule 4—Before the names of mountains, rivers, oceans, lakes, bays, islands article **The** is used. As—

1. **The Ganges** is a holy river.
2. **The Himalayas** are the highest mountains.
3. **The Red Sea** is a small sea.
4. **The British Isles** are in Europe.

Note—But article **The** is not used before a single specified Peak or Hill. As—

Mount Everest (**The** will not be used.)

Mount Abu

Rule 5—Article **The** is used before the titles of books, magazines or News-papers. As—

The Ramayan, **The Iliad**, **The Vedas**,
The Gulliver's Travels.

Note—But if the author's name is mentioned with the title of a book, article **the** is not used. As—

Homer's **Iliad**, Tulsi's **Ramcharitmanas**;
Shakespeare's **Tempest**.

Exercise

Correct the following sentences :

1. An advice you gave me has brought me great success.
2. I have never seen a house where I spent my childhood.
3. Sun rises in the east.
4. There are dark clouds in sky.
5. The man cannot do without work.
6. The woman is confined to the kitchen.
7. Himalayas are spread all along the north of India.
8. Man has climbed to the top of the Mount Everest.
9. I read **Indian Express**.
10. Dickens's the **David Copperfield** is a great novel.

Hints—(1) The advice; (2) the house; (3) the sun; (4) the sky; (5) 'The' not to be used; (6) 'The' not to be used; (7) The Himalayas; (8) no 'the' before Mount Everest; (9) the **Indian Express**; (10) 'the' not to be used.

Rule 6—Before musical instruments. As—
The flute, the guitar, the orchestra.

Rule 7—Before Superlative Adjective/Adverb. As—
The highest mountain, **the longest** river, **the best** boy, **the most** important point, **the most** honourable man.

Rule 8—Before that Proper Noun which carries its qualifying adjective before it. As—
The great Caesar, **the** immortal Shakespeare, **the** gentle-hearted Lamb, **the** brave Rana Pratap, **the** late Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

Rule 9—Before the Common Noun which expresses the sense of Abstract Noun. As—
1. **The patriot** in him did not let him yield.
2. **The warrior** in him kept his morale high.
3. **The father** in him came to his support at last.

Rule 10—Before the Adjective which is used as Collective Noun. As—
1. We should help **the poor**.
2. **The meek** are blessed.
3. **The noble** are always respected.

Rule 11—With Double Comparative Adverb.
As—

1. **The more** he gets, **the more** he desires.
(Remember that the Article **the** is used before each Adverb separately.)
2. **The more, the merrier.**
3. **The harder** he works, **the better** returns he will get.

Rule 12—Article **the** is also used before those Proper Nouns which stand for some Nation or People. As—

1. **The English** are very hard working.
2. **The French** are very fashionable.
3. **The German** are heroic people.

Note—If Article **the** is not used before such countries or nations, they would mean the Language of those countries or nations. Thus **English** means English Language, and **The English** means English People.

Rule 13—Article **the** is also used before a noun to give it the force of the **Superlative**.
As—

1. He is **the** scholar of the day.
2. He is **the** historian on this period.

Rule 14—Before Ordinal Number **the**. As—

The first, **the** Fifth, **the** fourth, **the** 4th, **the** 8th, **the** 3rd, **the** 2nd, **the** 15th of April/the fifteenth of April, George **the** Fifth, Henry **the** 8th.

Note—But if these Ordinal Numbers are written in Roman figures Article **the** is not used. I, II, III, IV, V, IX, etc. are in Roman figures.
As—

V Chapter, Canto XII, George V, Henry VIII.

Rule 15—Before Professions. As—

1. He has joined **the** Bar.
2. He has gone to **the** navy.
3. I am interested in **the** teaching profession.
4. He is a member of **the** Bench.

Rule 16—Before Common Nouns used as appositions to Proper Nouns. As—

Delhi, **the** capital of India; Nehru, **the** great patriot; Rana Pratap, **the** great warrior.

Exercise

Correct the following sentences :

1. She can very well play on guitar.
2. Now I come to most important point.
3. He has scored highest marks.
4. The last speaker was great Gandhi.
5. Late Mrs. Indira Gandhi lived here.
6. He was last to come.
7. Mother in her could not bear it.
8. Warrior in him stood undaunted.
9. This is the school for blind.
10. Blessed are poor.
11. The faster you go, earlier you reach.
12. Faster you go, the earlier you reach.
13. Faster you go, earlier you reach.
14. He knows the French.
15. English are traditionalists.
16. He is scientist of the day.
17. The marriage takes place on 12th of December.
18. Richard Second was murdered in his own country.
19. You will find this topic in the V chapter.
20. You will find this topic in fifth chapter.
21. He has joined Navy.
22. He has opted to join legal profession.
23. Akbar, great Moghul, was a liberal monarch.
24. Nehru, Prime Minister of India, was a great man.
25. Caesar, Roman hero, was killed by his own friends.

Hints—(1) the guitar; (2) the most; (3) the highest; (4) the great; (5) the late; (6) the last; (7) The mother; (8) The warrior; (9) the blind; (10) the poor; (11) the earlier; (12) The faster; (13) The faster, the earlier; (14) 'the' not to be used; (15) The English; (16) the scientist; (17) the 12th; (18) the Second; (19) 'the' not to be used; (20) the fifth; (21) the Navy; (22) the legal; (23) the great; (24) the Prime Minister; (25) the Roman hero.

(III) Omission of Articles

No Articles are used in the following cases—

Rule 1—Before Plural Noun

Normally no Articles are used before Plural Nouns. As—

1. Birds fly.
2. Cows give milk.
3. I love books.

Note—But if the Plural Noun points to some specific or special thing, Article **The** is used. As—

1. **The** birds of Africa are large in size.
2. **The** cows of Haryana give much milk.

Rule 2—Before a Proper Noun, As—

1. Ram is coming.
2. Mohan loves his sister.

Rule 3—Before an Abstract Noun, As—

1. Love is blind.
2. Wisdom comes with age.
3. This is real beauty.

Rule 4—Before a Material Noun, As—

1. Gold is costly.
2. Silver is white.
3. Cotton grows in our country.
4. Water is life.

(Gold, silver, iron, glass, wood, stone, paper, wine, coffee, tea, etc. are called **Material Noun**)

Note—All the Nouns mentioned under Rules No. 2, 3 and 4 above are called Uncountable Nouns. Normally, as has been explained above, no Article is used before them. But if these nouns are used as **Countable Nouns**, Article **the** is used before them. If these nouns are followed by some Prepositional Phrase (with **in** or **of**), they become Countable Nouns. In such cases Article **The** is used before them. As—

1. Kalidas is **the** Shakespeare of India.
2. **The** beauty of Kashmir is remarkable.
3. **The** gold of Kollar fields is not of high quality.
4. **The** milk in the cup has turned sour.
5. **The** wisdom of Solomon was known far and wide.

Rule 5—No Article is used before Collective Nouns. As—

1. Society will not permit it.
2. Parliament is in session.
3. Jury has given its verdict.
4. Army is on the move.

Rule 6—Normally no Article is used before the names of countries or States. But Article **The** is used before the names of the following Countries / States—

The U. S. A., The U. S. S. R., The Sudan, The Netherlands, The Punjab, The Congo.

Rule 7—No Article is used before the names of Languages. As—

1. I know English.
2. He knows French.

Rule 8—No Article is used before the names of Diseases, Festivals, and Seasons. As—

1. Cholera has broken out.
2. He is coming on Christmas.
3. These are winter sports.
4. Let us visit Shimla in spring.
5. I don't travel in summer.

Rule 9—No Article is used before the names of Games, Sports and Meals/Breakfast. As—

1. I am late for dinner.
2. I take breakfast quite early.
3. I shall return for supper.
4. He plays cricket.
5. They are fond of football.

Rule 10—No Article is used before Relations such as **father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, uncle**, etc. **cook** and **nurse** are also to be included in this list. As—

1. Father is coming today.
2. Mother is not well today.
3. Cook is in the kitchen.
4. Nurse is very kind.

Rule 11—**School, college, church, chapel, court, work, hospital, market, bed, table, sea, prison** also take no Article before them when they are used for their specific purpose or function. For example, schools / Colleges for education, church for prayer, and market for purchase or sale. When used in this sense, they take no Article. As—

1. I am going to college. (for study)
2. I am going to church. (for prayer or worship)

But when they mean only building or place for visit or sight-seeing or any other purpose, they take appropriate Article. As—

1. **The** college is at the next crossing.
2. **The** church is magnificent.
3. **The** market is closed.

Rule 12—Distributive Adjective + Noun require no Article. As—

1. Each boy got a prize. (not, **a/the** each boy)
2. I love every student. (not, **a/the** every student)

Rule 13—Possessive Adjective + Noun also require no Article. As—

1. This is **my** house. (not, **the/a** my house)
2. He is **your** friend. (not, **a/the** your friend.)
3. These are **our** cows. (not, **the** our cows)

Rule 14—Proper Noun + Apostrophe's + Noun take no Article. As—

1. This is Ram's house. (not, **a** Ram's house)
2. That was Mohan's mistake. (not, **a/the** Mohan's mistake)

Note—But if a Common Noun has Apostrophe s ('s), it takes an appropriate Article. As—

1. This is **a** n old man's house. (not, old man's house)
2. That is **a** beggar's cottage. (not, beggar's cottage)

Rule 15—No/Not any + Noun need no Article. As—

1. There is no boy in the class. (not, **a** no boy)
2. She has not any chance. (not, **a** not any chance)
3. There is not any egg. (not, not **an** any egg)

Exercise

Correct the following sentences :

1. I love the children.
2. Children of this school are very smart.

3. Horses of Kabul are very famous.
4. The mercy is a Divine virtue.
5. He was afflicted with the blindness.
6. Have the pity on him.
7. The beauty is a gift of God.
8. Beauty of the rising sun is so exciting.
9. The water is very scarce here.
10. Tea of the Malabar Hills is of good quality.
11. The Parliament has passed this bill.
12. U. S. S. R. has been split up into several countries.
13. Punjab is a very fertile state.
14. He has been afflicted by the cholera.
15. We go to some hill station in the summer.
16. He takes the dinner after 10 p. m.
17. I have received a letter from the father.
18. I have to go to the college today.
19. College building is very impressive.
20. The each boy participated in the games.
21. Each the boy participated in the games.
22. I know the every student by name.
23. We are all going to the church.
24. We are all going to church to see the carvings on its walls.
25. That is a Nehru's statue.
26. This is lion's cave.
27. This is farmer's plough.
28. There is a no book on the table.
29. He has a not any new suit.
30. I did not find a any friend there.

Hints—(1) 'the' not to be used; (2) The children (3) The horses; (4) 'the' not to be used; (5) 'the' not to be used; (6) No 'the'; (7) No 'the'; (8) the beauty; (9) No 'the'; (10) The tea; (11) No 'the'; (12) the U. S. S. R.; (13) the Punjab; (14) No 'the'; (15) No 'the'; (16) No 'the'; (17) No 'the'; (18) No 'the'; (19) The college; (20) No 'The'; (21) No 'the'; (22) No 'the'; (23) No 'the'; (24) the church; (25) No 'a'; (26) a lion's; (27) a farmer's; (28) No 'a'; (29) No 'a'; (30) No 'a'.

Rule 16—The Noun (complement) used after Elect / appoint / make / crown requires no Article. Such nouns refer to **men of unique position**. As—

1. He was appointed principal.
2. They made him chairman.
3. They are going to crown him king.
4. He was elected Speaker of the Assembly.

Rule 17—The noun used after **kind of** / **sort of** also takes no Article. As—

1. What kind of chair do you want to buy ?
2. I cannot deal with this sort of man.

Note—But if **kind of** / **sort of** refers to some special quality or talent, it would take an appropriate Article. As—

1. What kind of **a** musician is he ?
2. What sort of **a** problem would you discuss ?

Rule 18—Nouns coming in pairs also take no Article. As—

They are wife and husband.

Other such pairs are—

Father and mother; brother and sister; father and son; from door to door; from house to house; face to face; hand to hand; from man to man; from village to village, etc.

Rule 19—Some popular **Phrases, Idiomatic expressions, places and things** also take no Article before the Noun in them. They are—

1. to go to school, college, court, church, market, bed, home, hospital, prison.
2. by road, by train, by air, by sea, by ship/steamer, by train, by bus, by car.
3. at home, at church, at school, at college, at office, at dawn, at night, at noon, all day, all night, at fault, at present, at all, at will.
4. for sale, for fear, for favour, for leave, for mercy.
5. in bed, in debt, in fact, in trouble, in hand, at hand, in favour of, in front of, in opposition to, in earnest.
6. under consideration, under trial, under ground, under pressure.
7. on demand, on trial, on sale, on foot, on earth, on behalf of.
8. to catch fire, to send word, to give ear, to set sail, to lose heart, to set foot, to take offence.

Exercise

Correct the following sentences :

1. He has been appointed the Vice-Chancellor.
2. He has been elected the Speaker of the Parliament.
3. They made him the Chief Guest.
4. What kind of a house do you want to buy?
5. What sort of a man is he ?
6. They are the brother and sister.
7. They went round from the house to house.
8. They knocked from the door to door.
9. I travelled by the road.
10. This house is for the sale.
11. I have no work in the hand.
12. Your demand is under the consideration.
13. He is in the trouble.
14. He was at the fault.
15. He is in America at the present.

Hints—(1, 2, 3)—No ‘the’; (4, 5)—No ‘a’; (6 to 15)—No ‘the’.

(IV) Position of Articles

It is equally necessary to know the place / position in a sentence where the Article (**a**, **an** or **the**) should be used. The following are the Rules for it—

Rule 1—Before a Noun

Normally Article (**a**, **an** or **the**) is used before a Noun. As—

A book, **an** enemy, **the** horse

Rule 2—Adjective + Noun

If an Adjective comes before a noun, the Article is used before the Adjective. As—

A good book, **a** beautiful girl, **the** black horse.

Rule 3—Adverb + Adjective + Noun

If there is Adjective before a Noun, and also an Adverb before the Adjective, the Article is used before the Adverb. As—

A very good book, **an** extremely beautiful girl, **the** most intelligent boy.

Rule 4—Many/such/what

If there is use of **many, such, what** in a sentence, the Article is used after them.
As—

Many a man, such a beautiful, such a house, what a man, what a place.

Rule 5—As/how

If in a sentence **as / how** are used before an Adjective, the Article is used after the Adjective. As—

As gentle **a** girl as she; as brave **a** man as he; how good **a** boy; how excellent **an** opportunity.

Rule 6—So/too

If in a sentence **so / too** are used before an Adjective, Article is used after the Adjective. As—

So serious **an** attempt.

So brave **a** man.

Too clear **an** answer.

Too far **a** place.

Note—Under this Rule, sometimes, Article is used before **so/too**, though this use is not popular.

Exercise**Correct the following sentences—**

1. This is sharp a pen.
2. He has placed good an example.
3. You have lost great the chance offered to you last year.
4. We saw highly an exciting sport at the stadium.
5. The **Mayor of Casterbridge** is very interesting a novel.
6. A many man was standing on the stage.
7. I had never seen a such magnificent building.
8. A what great chance was given to you.
9. We never saw an as cultured man as he.
10. There had never been as a successful debate as that.
11. There had never been so a great fair ever held here before.
12. You cannot give a too clear evidence on this issue.

Hints—(1) a sharp; (2) a good example; (3) the great; (4) a highly exciting; (5) a very interesting; (6) Many a man; (7) such a magnificent; (8) What a great; (9) as cultured a man; (10) as successful a debate; (11) so great a fair; (12) too clear an evidence.

Exercise : Revision 1**Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with appropriate articles :**

1. Iron is useful metal.
2. He always speaks truth.
3. sky is overcast.
4. I first saw the Himalayas year ago.
5. Ganga is sacred river.
6. She is untidy girl.
7. I bought pen, inkpot and pencil.
8. Let us discuss problem seriously.
9. What piece of work is man !
10. He scored highest marks.
11. John, Manager of the factory, has gone on tour.
12. He reads Bible twice day.
13. He was driving the car at 80 Km. hour.
14. March is third month of the year.
15. Which is nearest station from here?
16. It is sheer delight to talk to him.

Hints—(1) a; (2) the; (3) The; (4) a; (5) The; a; (6) an; (7) a, an, a; (8) the; (9) a; (10) the; (11) the; a; (12) the, a; (13) an; (14) the; (15) the; (16) a.

Exercise : Revision 2**Correct the following sentences :**

1. This is an university college.
2. He is ablest boy of the class.
3. The man is mortal.
4. He lives in an hostel.
5. The water is not available here.
6. Bible is the holy book of the Christians.
7. I am learning the English these days.
8. He will always help poor.

9. Harder you work, better success you will get.
10. I have lost a pen I purchased yesterday.
11. Don't make noise.
12. Here is the English and the Hindi version of the Gita.
13. Sweet are the uses of the adversity.
14. He is the proprietor and the manager of the firm.
15. I am the father and the guardian of this girl.
16. The audience attentively listened to the scholarly and the interesting speech of the president.
17. The honesty is the best policy.
18. What cold day is this !
19. I have never seen a so exciting game.
20. It was a such shocking news.

Exercise : Revision 3

Fill in the blanks with suitable articles 'a', 'an', or 'the' in the following sentences :

1. French is difficult language.
2. Indian is good host.
3. You are honourable person.
4. French are more fashionable than Germans.
5. Bombay is very expensive city.
6. I bought pen, inkpot, and penstand from this shop.
7. I first saw Taj year ago.
8. Your watch is hour late.
9. It is honour to be his follower.
10. Draw map of India.
11. The guide knows way to the caves.
12. Let us consider whole matter from beginning.
13. Bible is holy book.

14. What is best solution of the problem ?
15. sky is quite clear today.
16. Punjab is prosperous state.
17. Mahatma Gandhi was hailed as father of country.
18. Read sixth chapter carefully.
19. I have liking for this kind of dress.
20. He is in hurry to go.

Exercise : Revision 4

Insert appropriate articles where necessary :

1. Set your watch again; it is hour late.
2. Moon will shine all night today.
3. He is honourable man.
4. It is very old book.
5. He went to sea to collect pebbles from shore.
6. How beautiful scene is this !
7. He started late in afternoon.
8. Buy for me best book on Grammar.
9. Would you go for walk with me.
10. That was proudest moment of my life.
11. Rose is my favourite flower.
12. They never fail who fall in noble cause.
13. I had pleasure of his company for last four days.
14. Time is best healer.
15. He has caught cold.
16. He has headache since morning.
17. They made fire to keep off wild animals.
18. I go for walk every morning.
19. He spends ten rupees day.
20. This is H. M. T. watch.
21. He is M. P.
22. Proud go down in end.