



THE MAURYA SCHOOL, PALAM VIHAR, GURGAON  
SESSION 2012-2013  
CLASS IV

## ARTICLES

The words 'a', 'an' and 'the' are called **articles**. Articles are actually demonstrative adjectives and are used to indicate people or things. So, they are used before nouns.

'A' and 'an' are **indefinite articles** whereas 'the' is a **definite article**.

### USE OF 'A' OR 'AN'

**Article 'a' is used before words that begin with consonants, or with initial letters that sound like consonants. For example:**

- a lamp
- a swimmer
- a European

**It is also used before a singular noun beginning with 'u', when 'u' is pronounced as in 'uniform', 'uniform', 'university'.**

**Article 'an' is used before the words that begin with a vowel sound 'a, e, i, o, u', or a silent 'h'. For example:**

- an ape
- an arm
- an hour
- an honest man

### USE OF 'THE'

**1. Article 'the' is used to talk about a specific person or thing or one already referred to. For example:**

'I know you. You are the girl who won the first prize!'

**2. When a singular noun is meant to represent the whole class; as,**

The cow is a useful animal.

The rose is the sweetest of all flowers.

**The two nouns *man* and *woman* can be used in a general sense without either article.**

Man is the only animal that uses fire

**But in present day English *a man* and *a woman* (or men and women) are more usual.**

A woman is more sensitive than *a man*.

**3. Before some proper names,**

(a) oceans and seas, e.g. *the Pacific, the Black Sea*

(b) rivers, e.g. *the Ganga, the Nile*

(c) canals, e.g. *the Suez Canal*

(d) deserts, *the Sahara*

(e) groups of islands, *the West Indies*

(f) mountain ranges, *the Himalayas, the Alps*

(g) a very few names of countries, which include words like *republic* and *kingdom* (e.g. *the Irish Republic, the United Kingdom*)

**4. Before the names of certain books; as,**

*The Vedas, the Puranas, the Ramayana*

**But we say-**

Homer's *Illiad*, Valmiki's *Ramayana*

**5. Before names of things unique of their kind; as,**

*The Sun, the sky, the ocean, the sea, the earth*

**6. Before a Proper noun when it is qualified by an adjective.**

*The great Caesar: the immortal Shakespeare*

**7. With Superlatives; as,**

*The darkest cloud has a silver ring.*

This is *the* best book of elementary chemistry.

**8. Before musical instruments; as,**

He can play *the* flute.

### OMISSION OF THE ARTICLE

**1. Before names of substances and abstract nouns ( i.e. uncountable nouns ) used in a general sense; as,**

*Sugar* is bad for your teeth.

*Gold* is a precious metal.

*Wisdom* is the gift of heaven.

- 2. Before plural countable nouns in general sense; as,**  
*Children* like chocolates.  
*Computers* are used in many offices.

Note that such nouns take the when used with a particular meaning;  
as,  
Where are *the* children? (= our children)

- 3. Before most proper nouns (except those referred to earlier), namely, names of people (e.g. Gopal ), names of continents, countries, cities, etc. (e.g. Europe, Pakistan, Nagpur), names of individual mountains( e.g. Mount Everest), individual islands, lakes, hills, etc.**
- 4. Before names of meals ( used in a general sense); as,**  
*Dinner* is ready.  
*What* time do you have lunch?