

Articles – A, An, The

Vowels and Consonants

- There are 26 letters in the English alphabet.
- Vowels: a, e, i, o, u
- All other letters are consonants.

Use of Articles

1. Indefinite Articles: A and An

These are used to talk about any one person or thing, not a specific one.

Use of "A":

Used before words that begin with a consonant sound.

Examples

- ❖ a girl
- ❖ a pen
- ❖ a book
- ❖ a cat

Use of "An":

Used before words that begin with a vowel sound.

Examples:

- ❖ an apple
- ❖ an umbrella
- ❖ an egg
- ❖ an onion
- ❖ an hour (h is silent, starts with vowel sound)
- ❖ an honest person (h is silent)



Note: It's the sound that matters, not just the first letter.

2. Definite Article: The

"The" is used to refer to specific or definite people or things.

Use of "The":

When referring to specific or known nouns.

Used before:

- Special names of places, rivers, mountains, books, etc.
- the Gita
- the Red Fort
- the Ganga
- the Earth, the Sun, the Moon
- Pronounced as “thee” (rhymes with she) before vowel sounds:
 - the apple, the orange

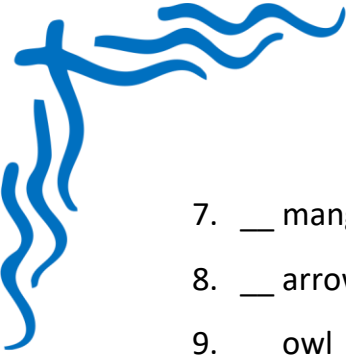
Grammar Byte Tips

- Use “a” before consonant sounds.
- Use “an” before vowel sounds.
- Use “the” before specific things or names.

Practice Exercises

A. Put a or an before the words:

1. ___ bus
2. ___ pen
3. ___ ball
4. ___ umbrella
5. ___ bench
6. ___ cat



7. ___ mango
8. ___ arrow
9. ___ owl
10. ___ car
11. ___ onion
12. ___ box

B. Fill in the blanks with suitable articles:

1. ___ subject I like the most is English.
2. I waited for over ___ hour for Rekha.
3. ___ motto of our country is 'Truth Alone Triumphs'.
4. Suman went to buy ___ pencil.
5. Can you tell me ___ time?
6. Seema is ___ good girl.

C. Complete the conversation using a, an, or the.

Paragraph Completion Activity

Students fill in a short story about a crow and a fox using correct articles. It reinforces proper usage in context.

Points to Remember

- A – before consonant sounds.
- An – before vowel sounds.
- The – for specific/definite people or things.