

## Articles

### Definition:

An article is a word used before a noun to indicate whether it is specific or unspecific.

**There are three articles in English:**

- A
- An
- The

### Use of “A”

#### Rule:

Use “a” before a singular noun that starts with a consonant sound.

#### ❖ Examples:

- a bag
- a tree
- a car
- a rose
- a zebra

### Special Note:

“A” is also used before nouns that start with vowels but sound like consonants.

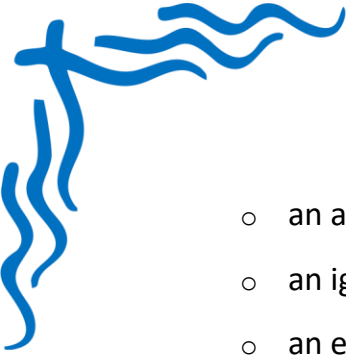
- a university
- a European country

### Use of “An”

#### Rule:

Use “an” before a singular noun that begins with a vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u).

#### ❖ Examples:



- an apple
- an igloo
- an egg
- an octopus
- an orange
- an elephant
- an eye

### **Special Note:**

“An” is also used before words that start with consonants but sound like vowels.

- an hour
- an x-ray
- an NGO

### **Use of “The”**

#### **Rule:**

Use “the” when referring to a specific person, place, or thing.

#### **Use “the” in the following cases:**

##### **1. Specific objects**

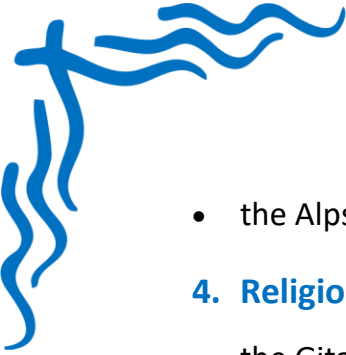
- Give me the pen on the table.
- Call the girl with the red frock.

##### **2. Names of rivers, seas, oceans**

- the Ganga
- the Arabian Sea
- the Indian Ocean

##### **3. Mountain ranges**

- the Himalayas



- the Alps

#### **4. Religious books**

- the Gita
- the Quran
- the Bible

#### **5. Newspapers**

- the Times of India
- the Hindustan Times

#### **6. Unique things**

- the Sun
- the Moon

#### **7. Superlatives**

- the tallest
- the most powerful

#### **8. Ordinal numbers**

- the first
- the last

#### **Omission of Articles**

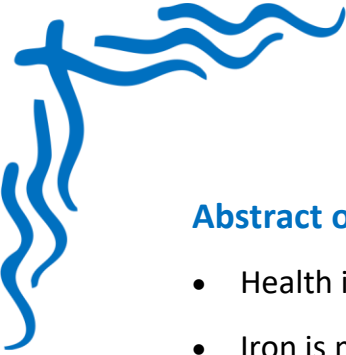
#### **Do not use articles before:**

##### **Languages:**

- Aman can speak English fluently.
- Sanskrit is the most ancient language.

##### **Proper nouns:**

- Mahatma Gandhi is called the Father of the Nation.
- Delhi is the capital of India.



### **Abstract or material nouns:**

- Health is better than wealth.
- Iron is more useful than gold.
- Wisdom is more valuable than courage.

### **Points to Remember**

#### **Use a with:**

- Singular nouns starting with consonant sounds:  
→ a dog, a house
- Singular nouns starting with vowel sounds:  
→ an elephant, an apple

#### **Use the with:**

- Specific nouns, rivers, seas, superlatives, unique things:  
→ the Ganga, the best player