



## Articles

### What are Articles?

- Articles are words that define whether a noun is specific or unspecific.
- The three articles in English are:
  - A
  - An
  - The

### Types of Articles

#### 1. Indefinite Articles – A, An

Used when referring to a non-specific or any one item of a group.

##### Use of "A"

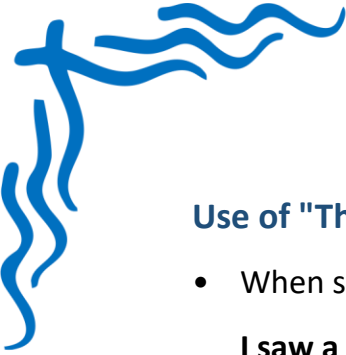
- Used before singular countable nouns starting with a consonant sound.  
**a bat, a cat, a dog, a man**
- Also used before words starting with a vowel letter but pronounced as consonants:  
**a university, a unicorn, a European**

##### Use of "An"

- Used before singular countable nouns starting with a vowel sound.  
**an apple, an elephant, an orange**
- Used before words that begin with a silent 'h':  
**an hour, an honest man, an heir**
- Used before abbreviations or acronyms beginning with a vowel sound:  
**an M.P., an M.A., an S.D.O.**

#### 2. Definite Article – The

Used when referring to a specific noun that is already known or mentioned.



## Use of "The"

- When speaking about something already known or mentioned:

**I saw a dog. The dog was barking loudly.**

- Before superlative degrees of adjectives:

**The tallest boy, the smartest girl**

- With comparative degree when selecting one of two:

**She is the wiser of the two.**

- Before certain expressions:

**the same, the whole, the both, the only**

- When referring to a whole class:

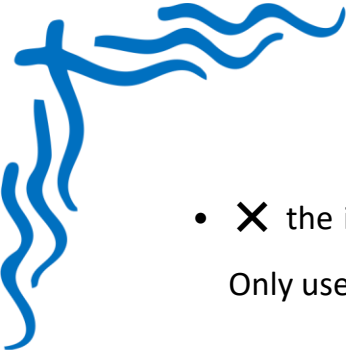
**The lion is a fierce animal.**

## Use "The" Before:

- **Unique things:** the Sun, the Moon
- **Rivers:** the Ganga, the Yamuna
- **Seas & Oceans:** the Pacific Ocean, the Arabian Sea
- **Deserts & Canals:** the Thar Desert, the Panama Canal
- **Mountain ranges:** the Himalayas, the Alps
- **Religious/Epic books:** the Quran, the Bible, the Ramayana
- **Newspapers:** the Times of India
- **Famous buildings/monuments:** the Red Fort, the Taj Mahal
- **Some countries:** the USA, the UK

## Important Notes & Common Errors

- ✗ the India → ✓ India (Don't use "the" with names of countries unless plural or abbreviation)



- ✗ the iron, the beauty (when used as uncountable material/abstract nouns) → ✓  
Only use "the" when specifying: The iron used here is costly.

## Practice Examples

### A. Fill in the blanks with a or an:

1. a European, an Indian
2. a boy with an egg
3. a necklace and an earring
4. a cow and an elephant

### B. Use a, an, or leave blank (×):

1. a university
2. a glass of × water
3. a chair made of × wood
4. an hour
5. an M.P. or an M.L.A.
6. a dog has a tail

### C. Use the where necessary:

1. This is the most interesting book I have ever read.
2. I have read the Ramayana, not the Bible.
3. The Sun is a star.
4. The Hooghly River flows into the Bay of Bengal.
5. We went to the room we were assigned.

## Points to Remember

- A, An → Indefinite, used with singular countable nouns.
- A → Before consonant sound.
- An → Before vowel sound or silent 'h'.
- The → Definite, used for something specific, known, or unique.