

Articles

What are Articles?

Articles are words used before nouns to show whether the nouns are general or specific.

Types of Articles

There are two kinds of articles:

- Indefinite Articles: a, an
- Definite Article: the

Indefinite Articles: "a" and "an"

Usage of "a":

- Used before words beginning with a consonant sound.
Examples: a dog, a fish, a tree
- Used before words starting with vowels that sound like consonants.
Examples: a university, a European, a unicorn

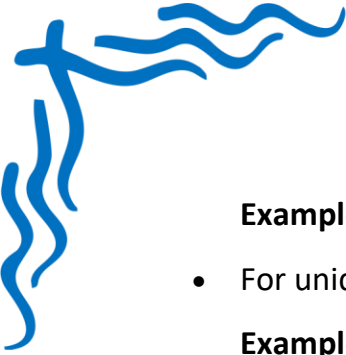
Usage of "an":

- Used before words beginning with a vowel sound.
Examples: an apple, an egg, an elephant
- Used before words with a silent 'h'
Examples: an hour, an honest man
- Used before abbreviations with vowel sounds.
Examples: an M.P., an M.L.A.

Definite Article: "the"

Usage of "the":

- To refer to a specific person or thing.
Example: I saw the girl who won the prize.
- Before a singular noun representing a whole class.



Example: The lion is a wild animal.

- For unique things.

Examples: The Sun, The Moon, The Earth

- Before superlatives.

Examples: the tallest, the best

- Before names of
 - Directions → the east, the west
 - Holy books → the Bible, the Quran
 - Newspapers → The Times of India
 - Rivers, seas, oceans → the Ganga, the Indian Ocean
 - Mountain ranges → the Himalayas
 - Groups of islands → the Andamans

Omission of Articles

- No article is used before proper nouns.

Examples: India, Ramesh, Rajasthan

- But "the" is used when proper nouns are used as common nouns.

Examples: Kalidas is the Shakespeare of India.


Important Rules Recap

- "a" = before consonant sounds
- "an" = before vowel sounds
- "the" = for specific, known, or unique nouns

Exercises Included

Fill in the Blanks (with a/an/the): An army of soldiers

- Apply knowledge of correct usage in contexts like: Abstract Nouns
 - "Tina bought ___ frock."
 - "He is reading ___ interesting book."

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- "The Moon shines at night."

Multiple Choice Questions:

- Mahatma Gandhi believed in truth and non-violence.

Example: "We saw ___ alligator at the zoo."

Options: (a) a (b) an

Omission & Special Uses:

- Recognizing when no article is needed
- Understanding exceptions with proper nouns and idiomatic phrases.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the chapter, students will be able to:

- Use a, an, and the appropriately.
 - Differentiate between definite and indefinite references.
 - Identify exceptions and omit articles where necessary.
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