



## Articles

### Introduction

Articles are demonstrative adjectives used to point out nouns. There are three articles in English grammar:

- A (Indefinite)
- An (Indefinite)
- The (Definite)

### Indefinite Articles: A and An

- Used before countable nouns in the singular.

**Examples:** a book, a dog, an apple, an orange

### Usage Rules

1. **'A' is used before words that begin with a consonant sound:**

**Examples:** a boy, a girl, a star

2. **'An' is used before words that begin with a vowel sound:**

**Examples:** an orange, an owl, an axe

3. **'A' is used even before vowels when the sound is not a vowel:**

**Examples:** a European (sounds like "Y"), a university, a one-rupee coin (sounds like "W")

4. **'An' is used before words beginning with a silent 'h':**

**Examples:** an hour, an honest man, an heir

5. **Abbreviations:** Use 'an' if the abbreviation starts with a vowel sound:

**Examples:** an MLA (M = 'em'), an M.P.

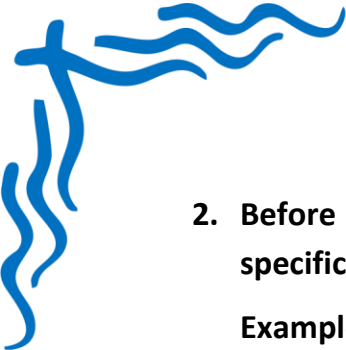
### Definite Article: The

- Refers to something specific or already mentioned.

### Usage Rules

1. **To refer to a specific noun:**

**Example:** The dog in the garden is barking.



**2. Before uncountable nouns (when specific):**

**Example:** The water in the tank is cold.

**3. Before a singular countable noun representing an entire class:**

**Example:** The lion is a brave animal.

**4. Before adjectives used as nouns:**

**8. With names of:**

- **Newspapers:** the Hindustan Times
- **Rivers, Seas, Oceans:** the Nile, the Pacific Ocean
- **Mountain ranges:** the Himalayas
- **Monuments:** the Taj Mahal
- **Holy books:** the Quran, the Gita

**Example:** The rich should help the poor.

**5. With superlatives:**

**Example:** She is the best student.

**6. With ordinal numbers:**

**Example:** The first chapter is easy.

**7. With unique things:**

**Example:** The Earth, the Sun

- **Trains, Ships, Aircraft:** the Titanic, the Boeing 767
- **Directions:** the north, the west
- **Families:** the Sharmas, the Guptas
- **Countries with common nouns:** the USA, the UK

## Omission of Articles

Do not use articles:

**1. Before proper nouns:**

**Example:** India, Rahul

**2. Before uncountable nouns and abstract ideas:**

**Example:** Milk is nutritious.

**3. Before plural countable nouns (in general sense):**

**Example:** Books are useful.

**4. Before names of meals:**

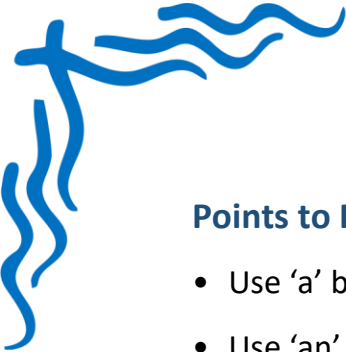
**Example:** We had lunch.

**5. Before names of languages and subjects:**

**Example:** Hindi, Mathematics

**6. Before institutions and relationships (in general use):**

**Example:** He is in school. Mother is home.



### **Points to Remember**

- Use 'a' before consonant sounds
- Use 'an' before vowel sounds
- Use 'the' for specific, unique, or already known nouns
- Know when to omit articles