

ARTICLES



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Articles are of two kinds

1. Definite Article
2. Indefinite Article



Definite Article - **the**

Indefinite Article - **a , an**

PRONUNCIATION OF 'a' , 'an' & 'the'.

THE is pronounced as 'the', with words that start with a consonant sound.

For eg :

The trees in the park are very small.

The coconut shell is brown in colour.

THE is pronounced as 'thee', with words that start with a vowel sound.

For eg:

The apples are rotten.

The honorable judge has given the verdict 

Now let us come to the pronunciation of 'a' and 'an'.

- ▶ When 'a' is talked about as a letter of English alphabet it is pronounced as 'a'
- ▶ When 'a' is pronounced along with a group of words or in sentence it is pronounced as a(अ).

For eg:

This is a pink dress.

There is an ink bottle on the desk.

Lets discuss about a few words that might confuse you.

For eg:

a university

a European

an hour

an MBA



DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE ARTICLES

Rule #1:

- ▶ 'a' precedes a word that begins with a consonant sound .
- ▶ 'an' precedes a word that begins with a vowel sound.

for eg:

a coconut, a hairband ,a pen, a desk, a bottle etc.

an egg, an umbrella, an honest man, an axe etc. 

The best way to learn vowel sounds is by recognizing the sounds of swarakshar in Hindi.

अ	आ	इ	ई
उ	ऊ	ए	ऐ
ओ	औ	अं	अः

Rule #2:

Use 'a' and 'an' before singular and countable noun.

For eg :

an elephant, a box, an honest man, a drum , an axe, an MBA



Rule #3:

Use 'a' and 'an' to talk about a person or thing unknown to your listener.

Use 'the' to talk about a person or thing known to your listener.

For eg :

My brother has two phones, an ordinary phone and a smart phone . The ordinary phone is old and the smart phone is a new one.

Rule #4:

Use 'a' and 'an' before nonspecific things.

Use 'the' before specific things.

For eg :

Do you have **an eraser** ?

I want to buy **a house**.

The man standing at the door is my uncle.

Could you pass me **the salt**?



Rule #5:

Use 'a' and 'an' before names of profession:

For eg :

He is **a doctor**.

He is **a teacher**.

Ram is **an engineer**.

Rule #6:

Use 'a' and 'an' before the **positive** form of adjectives.

Use 'the' before the **superlative** form of adjectives.

For eg :

He is **a good** dancer.

Ram is **an honest** man.

Sunita is **the smartest** girl in the class.

Rule #7:



Use 'a' before numerical expression:

For eg :

A dozen, half a dozen, a score, a gross, a hundred, a thousand

I bought **a dozen** eggs from the market.

I rode over **a hundred** miles to the hospital.

Rule # 8:

Use 'the' before the names of newspapers and magazines which are of national acclamation:

For eg:

The Times is a British daily national newspaper.

The headquarters of **The Hindu** is in Chennai.

The Statesman is also an English language daily newspaper.



Rule # 9:

► Use 'the' before names of public buildings/ institutions/associations

For eg :

I have never been to **the Taj Mahal**.

Sanjay is now at **the University of London**.

The British Museum is the world's oldest national public museum.

Rule # 10:

- Use 'the' before superlatives:

For eg:

This is **the hottest** day of the year.

She is **the smartest** girl in the class.



Rule # 11:

- Use 'the' before common nouns, which are one of its kind:

For eg:

The sun rises in the morning.

The stars twinkle at night.

It takes twenty seven days for **the moon** to rotate once on its axis.

➤ Rule # 12 :

Use 'the' before the names of countries paired up with words like kingdom , republic, union or united :

For eg :

The USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic)

The USA (United States of America)

The UK (United Kingdom)

The Republic of India



▶ Rule #13 :

Use 'the' before mountain ranges:

For eg :

He plans to cross the Himalayas on foot.

The Himalayas are higher than the Alps.

Exception :

The British expedition to Mount Everest is leaving next month.

Mont Blanc is the highest mountain in the Alps.

► **Rule #14 :**

Use 'the' before a group of islands:

For eg :



The Andaman and Nicobar islands are a union territory of India.

The British Isles are a group of islands off the north-western coast of Europe.

Omission of Articles

► Before Uncountable Nouns :

For Eg: **Honey** is sweet.

Sugar is bad for teeth.

Exception:

For Eg: Could you please pass me **the salt**?



► Before plural countable nouns used in general sense :

For Eg: **Computers** are useful machines.

Children love to play in the park.

Exception:

For eg :

The computers installed in the school lab are donated by the chairman.

The children standing there are my neighbours .

- Before the names of countries, continents and people:

For eg :

India is a democratic country.

Ram is taller than **Rahim**.

- Before the names of meals :

For eg :

Mother is cooking **lunch**.

Dinner is ready.



Exception:

Everyone liked **the lunch** prepared by my mother.

- Before the names of languages :

For eg:

Can you speak **English**?

They speak **French** at home.

► Before Abstract Nouns :

For eg:

Honesty is the best policy.

Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder.

► Before material nouns :

For eg :

Gold is a precious metal.

Plastic is a synthetic material.

► Before names of places and markets :

For eg :

Chandini Chowk is the oldest market of Delhi.

There are many shops at **Connaught Place**.

► Before the names of games :

For eg :

I play **cricket** and **hockey**.

She plays **badminton**.



Worksheet

Fill in the blanks with the suitable Articles. Put a(x) where no article is required.

- a) _____ ambulance takes sick people to hospital.
- b) We see _____ moon at night.
- c) She has _____ uniform.
- d) I met _____ European in the park. 
- e) _____ Ganges is _____ holy river.
- f) Can I have _____ piece of cake ? _____ cake is very tasty.
- g) _____ bread is made from _____ flour.
- h) _____ Nile is _____ longest river in _____ world.

THANK YOU

