

# Articles A, AN and THE

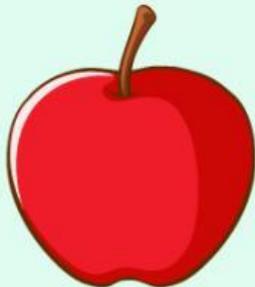
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## A/AN

- when mentioning sth or sb for the 1st time or talking about sth in general

*A man was standing outside my house.*

- we use AN in front of a vowel or a vowel-like sound  
*an apple, an hour*



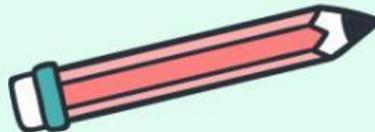
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## THE

- when mentioning sth or sb for the 2nd time or talking about sth specific

*The man was dressed in a black coat.*

- with church, school, university, hospital if people are not normally there  
*I went to the school to attend a parent-teacher meeting.*



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## No article

- with words bed, church, school, prison, university when they are used for their primary purpose

*Michael is in bed.*

*My children go to school every day.*

*My friend is sick and is in hospital.*

- with more abstract expressions to/at sea, in/out of work

*He is at work.*

*She is out of town.*

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