

LANGUAGE FOCUS

A, AN, THE, or no article?

We use articles to make our meaning clear. Here are the most common rules for your interview.

a / an

one person
or thing

- Use **a** or **an** with a singular countable noun when we are not talking about a specific person or thing.
- Use **a** before a consonant sound and **an** before a vowel sound.

Examples

I'm **a** registered nurse.
She's **an** ICU nurse.
He's **a** new graduate.

the

a specific
place or thing

- Use **the** when we are talking about a specific place or thing that both speakers can identify.
- We usually use **the** before hospital units, departments, and common areas in a hospital.

Examples

I work in **the** ICU.
I work in **the** ED.
I assist in **the** OR.
I work in **the** NICU.

—

no article

- We do not use an article with some unit or specialty names (as a subject area or type of nursing).
- We also do not use an article with plural nouns or uncountable nouns in general statements.

Examples

I work in **Pediatrics**.
I work in **Med-Surg**.
I provide **patient care**.
I support patient recovery.



REMEMBER THE PATTERN

a / an + job or role
a registered nurse
an ICU nurse

the + hospital unit or department
the ICU · **the** ED · **the** OR · **the** NICU

No article + specialty name
Pediatrics · Med-Surg
Patient care · Nursing team

LANGUAGE PRACTICE

Choose the Correct Article

Complete the sentences with **a**, **an**, **the**, or no article (—).

1**CHOOSE**

Write **a**, **an**, **the**, or — (no article).

1

I'm _____ registered nurse.

2

She's _____ ICU nurse.

3

I work in _____ ICU.

4

He works in _____ ED.

5

I work in _____ Pediatrics.

6

We assist in _____ OR.

7

I provide _____ patient care.

8

She is part of _____ nursing team.

2**FIX IT**

Rewrite the sentences with the correct article.

1

I am nurse.

2

I work in ICU.

3

She is a OR nurse.

4

We provide a patient care.

3**MAKE IT PERSONAL**

Complete the sentences with **a**, **an**, **the**, or no article. Use your own information.

1

I'm _____ .
(e.g., a registered nurse / an ICU nurse)

2

I work in _____ .
(e.g., the ICU / the ED / the OR / the NICU)