

Adjectives and Articles

An **adjective** describes a noun or pronoun. It tells what kind, how many, or which one.

What Kind	a gigantic white iceberg
How Many	numerous icebergs; several chances
Which One	this lifeboat

The **articles** *a*, *an*, and *the* appear before nouns or other adjectives.

- Use **a** before words that begin with a consonant sound: a disaster, a rapid speed.
- Use **an** before words that begin with a vowel sound or a silent *h*: an ending, an eerie noise.
- Use **the** before words beginning with any letter: the site, the passengers.

An adjective formed from a proper noun is a **proper adjective**. Proper adjectives are capitalized: American newspapers.

Directions Underline the articles and circle the adjectives in each sentence.

1. An iceberg is a huge mass of ice that has broken off from a glacier.
2. A large iceberg can weigh a million tons and stretch many miles.
3. In the Atlantic Ocean, most icebergs come from the island of Greenland.
4. Icebergs are made of frozen fresh water.
5. For travelers, they are beautiful and deadly.
6. As they float south, icebergs melt in the warm sun.

Directions Write *a*, *an*, or *the* to complete each sentence. Use the article that makes sense.

7. Some icebergs are carried by wind into _____ Atlantic Ocean.
8. Only _____ small part of an iceberg is visible above the water.
9. _____ iceberg is quite impressive to behold.

Directions Complete each sentence with an adjective or adjectives of your own.

10. The wreck of the _____ ship lies in _____ pieces on the ocean floor.
11. A litter of belongings tells the _____ tale of lost life.
12. The once _____ ship is now a _____ heap on _____