

# Definite and Indefinite Articles

## (a, an, the)

In English there are three articles: a, an, and the. Articles are used before nouns or noun equivalents and are a type of adjective. The definite article (the) is used before a noun to indicate that the identity of the noun is known to the reader. The indefinite article (a, an) is used before a noun that is general or when its identity is not known. There are certain situations in which a noun takes no article.

### Definite article

The definite article is used before singular and plural nouns when the noun is specific or particular.

**the** (before a singular or plural noun)

There are two ways to pronounce "the." One pronunciation sounds like /ðə/ ("thuh," rhymes with "duh") and the other sounds like /ði/ ("thee," rhymes with "free"). The pronunciation of the word "the" depends on the first sound of the word that comes after it.

### Indefinite article

An indefinite article is an article that refers to a noun without specifying it or refers to a noun to introduce it for the first time.

**a** (before a singular noun beginning with a consonant sound)

**an** (before a singular noun beginning with a vowel sound)

Example: **a** boy, **an** apple

Rules	Count Nouns	Non Count Nouns
Specific identity not known	a, an	(No articles)
Specific identity known	the	the
All things or things in general	(No articles)	(No articles)

Non count nouns are those which usually cannot be counted. Following are some common examples: milk, oil, beauty, Spanish, fun, air, and more.

**Examples:**

I have **a** dog (one dog).

**The** dog is very friendly (the dog that I have already mentioned).

Dogs make great pets (dogs in general).

I ate **an** apple yesterday. **The** apple was juicy and delicious.

**No Articles:**

- Don't use an article with possessive adjectives. For example, "She's my friend" and not "She's a my friend."
- Don't use an article with a general topic.
- Don't put an article in front of country names except when they include 'kingdom', 'states' and 'lands'.

# Multiple Chose

Instructions:

In this exercise you will find several sentences with missing articles you will be given several options you must select the correct article.

1. They had (1) \_\_\_\_\_ long meeting. When (2) \_\_\_\_\_ meeting ended they had (3) \_\_\_\_\_ coffee break.

1

- a. a
- b. an
- c. the

2

- a. a
- b. an
- c. the

3

- d. a
- e. an
- f. the

2. He started here as (1) \_\_\_\_\_ office worker. Now he's (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Managing Director.

1

- d. a
- e. an
- f. the

2

- g. a
- h. an
- i. the

3. We need (1) \_\_\_\_ apple and (2) \_\_\_\_ orange for the fruit salad.

1

- g. a
- h. an
- i. the

2

- j. a
- k. an
- l. the

4. Is there \_\_\_\_ whiteboard in the classroom?

- a. a
- b. an
- c. the

5. You can't go to \_\_\_\_ post office now. It's closed.

- a. a
- b. an
- c. the

# Drag & Drop

Instruction:

In this exercise you will have to drag and drop the missing items into the blanks of this paragraph.

A	A	THE
A	THE	A

An American bride often looks in \_\_\_\_ magazine for advice about planning her wedding. Every bride has her own idea of \_\_\_\_ most perfect wedding. For most brides, this includes flowers, music and \_\_\_\_ delicious wedding cake.

According to tradition, if a woman places \_\_\_\_ piece of cake in \_\_\_\_ bag underneath her pillow, she will dream of her future husband. \_\_\_\_ woman will see his face in her dreams.

# Join With Arrows

Instructions:

Link the respective articles with their rules.

a

Before a singular noun beginning with a vowel sound

No articles

Before a singular or plural noun

the

Before a singular noun beginning with a consonant sound.

an

All things or things in general