

Figure out when to use articles, if at all, and which article to use by doing these tasks, and asking yourself "Why?" Each one expresses a rule, so you'll have a handy rule book. (Hint: there are some trick questions!)



1) To paraphrase Hamlet, '“A / An” or “the,” that is the question...’ CLICK ON the CORRECT answer:

- a) He didn't tell me. Did he buy a / an / the European car?
- b) I haven't got a / an / the pen.
- c) He gave his extra books to a / an / the homeless shelter.
- d) Oh, my tummy hurts! I ate half a / an / the cake!
- e) Remember, I told you, yesterday, I bought a / an / the European car.

- f) Would you get me a / some / the buttermilk from the store, please?
- g) I'm going to a / an / the hairdresser's after work, today.
- h) It's a / an / the better choice.
- i) A / An / The best of them all is the yellow kind, in my opinion.
- j) A / An / The Sahara desert is gorgeous.

- 2) '“A” or “An”?,’ that is the question...CLICK ON the CORRECT answer/s:  
(Hint: there is at least one trick question!)



- a) A / An mosquito got into my room last night, and drove me crazy!
- b) A / An empty fridge can be tragic when getting home late from work.
- c) A / An hour ago, I thought I heard you come back, but I was wrong.
- d) She's proud to be a / an housewife and stay-at-home mom.
- e) You got a call from a / an hotel while you were out.



- 3) To paraphrase Hamlet, "To "article" or not to "article," that is the question...'  
CLICK ON the CORRECT answer/s. (*HINT: there might be tricks!*)
- a) I got a / (no article) cold and an / (no "an") earache from him! (**AmE!**)
  - b) I brought it so that / (no "that") you could see it in person.
  - c) The / (no article) director asked to see me in his office; I wonder why.
  - d) I went to see the / (no article) Queen Elizabeth during her 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee.
  - e) I bought chocolate bars by a / the / (no article) dozen for the Halloween party.
  - f) It's really some / the / (no article) stinky!
  - g) I think that (no article) / a / the nurses are usually dedicated, and I have known (no article) / a / the dedicated nurse in the past, but (no article) / a / the nurses at my local hospital are really dedicated.
  - h) Some the / (no second article) dogs hate water, too.
  - i) The / (no article) Italy produces wonderful wines.
  - j) The / (no article) U.S. produces wonderful wines.

- k) I'm going to the / (no article) bed, now, I'm pooped!
- l) I'm going to the / (no article) college in the fall.

4) "Demonstrate" to me, CLICK ON the CORRECT answer: this, that, these, those

- a) You: "Can't you see the spot on your shirt?" Bob: "Yeah, this / that spot is huge!"
- b) I saw this / that boat on the horizon, yesterday, too.
- c) Don't you just love these / those cherries? Here, have one!
- d) Oh, these / those noisy boys next door are at it, again.
- e) What, smoking? Yeah, I gave this / that up years ago.
- f) Would you give me these / those apples on the counter, please?
- g) These / Those neighbors who live next door to me are really nice.



IMAGES: all images are Clipart available from the Microsoft Word program used to make this document.