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DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE ARTICLES



I have a bag.



He is eating an apple.



We waited for an hour.

In the sentences above, 'a' and 'an' are used with the nouns 'bag', 'apple' and 'hour'.

These are **singular countable nouns**.

Which noun begins with a **vowel sound**?

'Apple' begins with a vowel sound.

It is used with 'an'

Which other word is used with 'an'?

'Hour' is also used with 'an'.

This word begins with a **silent 'h'**.

We call 'a' or 'an' the **Indefinite Article**.

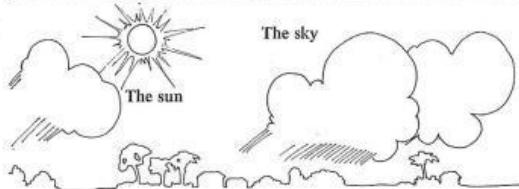
DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE ARTICLES

The **Indefinite Article** is 'a' or 'an'. It is used with a **singular countable noun**. We only use 'an' in front of a noun which begins with a **vowel sound** or a **silent 'h'**.

He bought a shirt yesterday.
The shirt was white.

Read these two sentences above.
In the first sentence the noun 'shirt' is used with 'a'.
'Shirt' is mentioned again in the second sentence.
What word is it used with?
It is used with 'the'.
'The' is called the **Definite Article**.

'The' is called the **Definite Article**. When we speak of something for the first time, we use the **Indefinite Article 'a' or 'an'**. When we speak of the **same thing** again we use **'the'**.



The picture shows the **sky** and the **sun**.
We have only **one sky** and **one sun**.
Do we use 'a', 'an' or 'the' with these nouns?
We use **'the'**.

We use 'the' when we speak of only **one** such thing.

a book	an elephant
the Nile River	the Indian Ocean
the Himalayas	a postman
a house	the National Museum

Can you pick out the nouns which are used with 'the'? The nouns 'Nile River', 'Himalayas', 'Indian Ocean' and 'National Museum' are used with 'the'. They are the **names** of a river, a mountain range, an ocean and a certain place.

We also use 'the' before **names** of rivers, mountain ranges, oceans and certain places.

EXERCISE 85 – A, AN

Fill in the blanks with 'a' or 'an'.

e.g. They are playing with ball.
They are playing with a ball.

1. Kok Wah has dog.
2. The hen laid egg yesterday.
3. He cut the tree with axe.
4. Have you umbrella?
5. He gave me blue bag.
6. Her uncle is doctor.
7. She has brother and sister.
8. fox has tail.
9. He bought orange and apple.
10. ox is animal.

EXERCISE 86 – A, AN

Fill in the blanks with 'a' or 'an'. Do not write anything in the blanks if it is not necessary.

e.g. She has tin of coffee.
She has a tin of coffee.

1. He gave me box of chocolates.
2. She drank glass of water.
3. Mr Chan sells vegetables.
4. There are new books in the library.
5. Have you seen owl before?
6. cow has tail.
7. She planted roses and orchids in her garden.
8. He ate plate of rice.
9. The farmer has buffalo and cow.
10. He wants coffee. Give him cup.

EXERCISE 87 – A, AN, THE

Fill in the blanks with 'a', 'an' or 'the'.

e.g. We saw eagle in sky.
We saw an eagle in **the** sky.

1. You bought bag yesterday. Where is bag now?
2. We live near Rex Cinema.
3. Seng Chye is good friend of mine.
4. Himalayas lie to north of India.
5. There is worm on floor.
6. ant is insect.
7. house has roof.
8. Mr Jones has cat. cat is called Pussy.
9. She bought pair of shoes and handbag.
10. I found pen yesterday. pen was lying on road.

East 東
South 南
West 西
North 北

EXERCISE 88 – A, AN, THE

Fill in the blanks with 'a', 'an' or 'the'. Do not write anything in the blanks if it is not necessary.

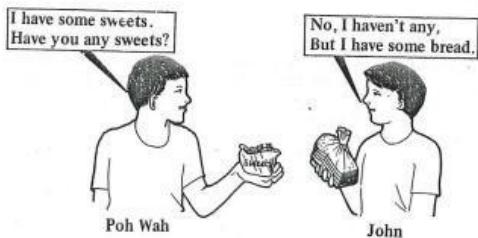
e.g. I have uncle who lives near Hilton Hotel.
I have an uncle who lives near **the** Hilton Hotel.

1. chair is made of wood.
2. Have you been to museum before?
3. The man sells bananas and oranges.
4. apple grows on tree.
5. cats eat fish.
6. There is dust on the table. Wipe off dust.
7. They went to Botanical Gardens in car.
8. Chong Meng is monitor in class.
9. I ate slice of bread in morning.
10. sun is shining brightly in sky.

in [the] morning
afternoon
evening

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SOME AND ANY



The noun 'sweet' is **countable** and 'bread' is **uncountable**. Can you name the words used with these nouns? 'Some' and 'any' are used. When Poh Wah asks a **question**, does he use 'some' or 'any'? He uses 'any'. John also uses 'any' when he gives Poh Wah a **negative answer**. Does he use 'any' too in his positive statement? No, he doesn't. He uses 'some'.

'Some' and 'any' can be used with **countable** and **uncountable** nouns. 'Some' is usually used in a **positive statement**. 'Any' is usually used in a **negative statement** or a **question**.

someone	anyone
somebody	anybody
something	anything

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SOME AND ANY

Look at the word on the blackboard on page 76. They are called **compound words**. Each word is formed from 'some' or 'any' and another word. Name the words which are joined with 'some' and 'any'. The words are 'one', 'body' and 'thing'.

'Some' and 'any' can be joined with 'one', 'body' and 'thing' to form compound words.

EXERCISE 89 – SOME, ANY

Fill in the blanks with 'some' or 'any'. Then write out each sentence.

e.g. I haven't money.
I haven't **any** money.

1. Do you want **any** sugar?
2. Have you **any** nails?
3. Is there **any** water in the glass?
4. He has **some** books to show you.
5. There were **some** boys in the hall.
6. I haven't **any** coins in my pocket.
7. Are there **any** rats in your house?
8. There are **some** sweets in the box.
9. Here are **some** stamps for you.
10. There isn't **any** ink in this bottle.

EXERCISE 90 – SOME, ANY

Fill in the blanks with 'some' or 'any'. Then write out each sentence.

e.g. He poured tea into the cup.
He poured **some** tea into the cup.

1. There are **some** pictures in this book.
2. I like those flowers. Please give me **some**.
3. Are there **any** letters for me?
4. She hasn't **any** new clothes to wear.
5. There are **some** glasses on the table.
6. He didn't give me **any** money this morning.
7. I cannot eat **any** more rice.

10. Have you any.... work for me to do?

EXERCISE 91 – SOMEONE, ANYONE, SOMETHING, ANYTHING, ETC.

Fill in the blanks by joining the words in brackets with 'some' or 'any'.

e.g. Is there (thing) for me to do?
Is there anything for me to do?

1. There is someone (one) waiting outside.
2. Was there anyone (one) at home?
3. Is anybody (body) coming to play this evening?
4. There is something (thing) I must tell you.
5. Someone (body) has taken my bag.
6. She doesn't want to see anyone (one).
7. She didn't speak to anybody (body) last night.
8. He put something (thing) into his bag.
9. Someone (one) is knocking at the door.
10. Have you anything (thing) for us to eat?

Would you like some coffee?

