



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**.

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'.

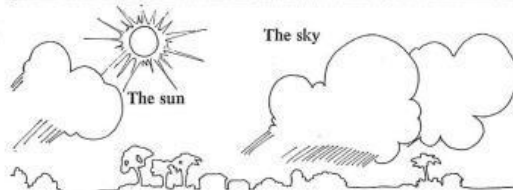
'Shirt' is mentioned again in the second sentence.

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  
the Nile River  
the Himalayas  
a house

an elephant  
the Indian Ocean  
a postman  
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

I have some sweets.  
Have you any sweets?



Poh Wah

No, I haven't any.  
But I have some bread.



John

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

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 ~~anyone~~... (one) waiting outside.
2. Was there ~~anyone~~... (one) at home?
3. Is ~~anybody~~ (body) coming to play this evening?
4. There is ~~anything~~ (thing) I must tell you.
5. ~~Somebody~~ (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?