A, AN, THE + CLASSROOM OBJECTS & PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

In My Classroom

Hello! My name is Laura. This is my classroom. There is a teacher and there are ten students.

On my desk, there is a book, a pencil, and an eraser. The book is next to the pencil. The eraser is in front of the book.

There is a computer on the teacher's desk. The computer is next to a lamp. There is an orange notebook under the computer.

Look at the wall! There is a clock. The clock is above the board. There are some pictures on the wall.

There is a backpack under my chair. The backpack is between the chair and the desk.

GRAMMAR: A, AN AND THE

1. A

Use a before a singular noun when we talk about one thing in general or mention something for the first time.

a + consonant sound

Examples: a book, a pencil, a desk, a chair, a computer, a teacher.

Example: There is a book on the desk.

We use a because this is the first time we mention the book.

2. AN

Use an before a singular noun that begins with a vowel sound.

Examples: an eraser, an apple, an orange, an umbrella, an English book.

Example: There is an eraser on the desk.

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3. THE

Use the when we talk about a specific object or something we already mentioned.

First time: There is a book on the desk.
Second time: The book is blue.

We use a because it is the first time we mention the book. We use the because now we know which book we mean.

PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE: Prepositions tell us where an object is.

Preposition	Example
ON	The book is on the desk.
IN	The pencil is in the pencil case.
UNDER	The backpack is under the chair.
NEXT TO	The computer is next to the lamp.
BETWEEN	The chair is between the desk and the wall.
IN FRONT OF	The teacher is in front of the board.
BEHIND	The backpack is behind the chair.
ABOVE	The clock is above the board.

We can use a, an, the + prepositions of place together.

- There is a book on the desk.
- The book is next to the pencil.
- There is an eraser under the book.
- The eraser is in front of the notebook.

Remember:
a / an → first mention / one thing in general
the → specific object / already mentioned
preposition → tells us where the object is

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Exercise 1 – Choose A, AN or THE

1. There is ___ book on the desk.
a) a b) an c) the

2. ___ book is next to the pencil.
a) A b) An c) The

3. There is ___ eraser in my pencil case.
a) a b) an c) the

4. ___ eraser is blue.
a) A b) An c) The

5. There is ___ computer in the classroom.
a) a b) an c) the

Exercise 2 – Complete with A, AN or THE

1. There is _____ chair next to the desk.
2. _____ chair is brown.
3. There is _____ apple on the teacher's desk.
4. _____ apple is red.
5. There is _____ ruler in my pencil case.

Exercise 3 – Choose the Correct Preposition

1. The book is _____ the desk.
a) on b) under c) between

2. The pencil is _____ the pencil case.
a) behind b) in c) above

3. The backpack is _____ the chair.
a) under b) on c) in front

4. The computer is _____ the lamp.
a) next to b) under c) between

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