

Learn English Grammar
What is an article?
Use of A, An & The

Importance of Learning Use of A, An & The:

Use of “A, An & The” help us to think specifically, objectively and rationally in our day to day life.

Objective:-Develop basic understanding for writing meaningful sentences

Guide:- You can click on www.rajeevelt.com Link for more information

Articles are a type of determiner. They function like adjectives, as they modify the noun in the sentence. The only articles in English are ‘the’ and ‘a/an’. Yet, the tricky part is that we use them differently – and sometimes not at all.

When to use a/an, the and no article

Definite and indefinite articles

The	Definite article
An/a	Indefinite article

We use ‘the’ before a noun when:

- referring to something specific
- there is only one of something (e.g. the sun)
- the noun has been mentioned before

We use ‘a/an’ before a noun when:

- referring to something in general
- mentioning something for the first time
- describing someone’s profession (eg. I am a teacher)

Compare these two sentences:

Let’s watch the TV series that we love (a specific TV series that is familiar to us or that we know about.)

Let’s watch a TV series after dinner (we don’t have a specific TV series in mind – it could be any series.)

It’s important to remember that we use ‘a’ and ‘an’ differently: ‘a’ comes before a noun beginning with a consonant sound and ‘an’ comes before a noun beginning with a vowel sound. For example:

A	An
car	elephant
girl	orange
zoo	announcement
building	umbrella
hotel	hour

If you were observant, you may be wondering why ‘hotel’ and ‘hour’ don’t use the same indefinite article, even though they both start with ‘h’. Remember, we need to look at the starting sound, not letter, and since ‘hour’ is pronounced with a silent ‘h’, it starts with a vowel sound – which means you need ‘an’.

Here are some more examples of definite and indefinite articles:

- Somebody call **a** policeman!
- Did you see **the** film that was on Channel 4 last night?
- Would you like **a** glass of milk?
- I love to swim in **the** ocean.
- **The** announcement lasted for 10 minutes.

Learn more about the basics of definite and indefinite articles in this video:

https://youtu.be/RDkx4J_-QY

No article

We never use a/an with uncountable nouns. However, ‘the’ is sometimes used with uncountable nouns in the same way it is used with plural countable nouns. This is when we want to refer to a specific object, group, or idea.

For example:

- **Electricity** has become more expensive recently.
- Can you pass me **the** sugar please?

It’s a good idea to familiarise yourself with countable and uncountable nouns so you can make the right choice of article. See the table below for examples.

Countable	Uncountable
apple	fruit
suitcase	luggage
coin	money
friend	love
second	time

However, we use ‘no article’ in other situations without grammatical rules. In this case, it’s something you have to remember.

Check out some of the following situations for knowing where you must **leave out** the article.

Use ‘no article’ before:

- **Names of languages and nationalities:** Chinese, Russian (unless referring to the population of the place e.g. ‘The Italians are known for their delicious food.’).
- **Names of sports:** cricket, baseball.
- **Names of subjects:** Art, Mathematics.

Geographical places

Teaching is an art. Rajeev Ranjan
Learn English Grammar – Use of “a, an , the”
www.rajeevelt.com

When it comes to geographical places, such as countries or continents, we use ‘the’ in some cases, and no article in others. Unfortunately, there aren’t any rules to help you here – you just have to familiarise yourself with the ones that need ‘the’ or not.

Do NOT use ‘the’ before:

- **Lakes:** Lake Geneva, Lake Placids
- **Mountains:** Mount Fuji, Mount Everest.
- **Continents:** Europe, Asia.
- **Most countries:** England, Sweden.
- **Counties/states/provinces/regions:** Oxfordshire, Catalunya, California.
- **Cities, towns, villages:** London, Paris.
- **Islands:** Bali, Hawaii.
- **Street names:** Main Street, 5th Avenue.






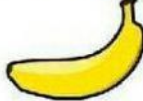

















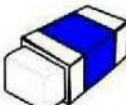
Use ‘the’ before:

- **Rivers:** The Nile, The Mississippi.
- **Mountain ranges:** The Andes, The Pyrenees.
- **Deserts:** The Sahara, The Atacama.
- **Oceans and seas:** The Pacific, The Mediterranean.
- **Groups of islands:** The Maldives, The Seychelles.
- **Some countries:** The USA, The Netherlands.
- **Points on the globe:** The Equator, The North Pole.
- **Geographical areas:** The Middle East, The West.

Check out some of the most common mistakes with articles in this video:

<https://youtu.be/uU-RbEEolw0>

a / an

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|------------------|----|--|---------------|
| 1 |  | orange | 13 |  | igloo |
| 2 |  | apple | 14 |  | giraffe |
| 3 |  | umbrella | 15 |  | banana |
| 4 |  | rabbit | 16 |  | uncle |
| 5 |  | bus | 17 |  | flower |
| 6 |  | university | 18 |  | ear |
| 7 |  | desk | 19 |  | bear |
| 8 |  | elephant | 20 |  | ring |
| 9 |  | sheep | 21 |  | arm |
| 10 |  | lemon | 22 |  | farmer |
| 11 |  | egg | 23 |  | eye |
| 12 |  | uniform | 24 |  | eraser |

Articles exercise

Now you know the grammar, here’s a short test for you to test your knowledge. Find the answers at the end of the blog – don’t *peek!*

Answer the questions with: ‘a/an’, ‘the’ or ‘no article’.

1. I love going on holiday to ___ Maldives.
2. Did you watch ___ the Mel Gibson film on TV last night?
3. Do you still live in ___ Bristol?
4. I’ve had ___ terrible headache all day.
5. The book is about someone who lives on ___ small island.
6. She lives in ___ Scotland now, but is from ___ Netherlands.
7. They speak ___ Chinese.
8. I’d love to go sailing along ___ Ganges river.
9. Who is that woman in ___ photograph?
10. Can I have ___ sugar in my coffee please?

Articles exercise

Complete the following sentences using appropriate articles. In some cases, no articles are needed.

1. man is mortal.
 - a. A
 - b. The
 - c. No article
2. I am university student.
 - a. a
 - b. an
 - c. the
3. She goes to the temple in mornings.
 - a. a
 - b. the
 - c. No article
4. Kiran is best student in the class.
 - a. a
 - b. the
 - c. No article
5. camel is the ship of the desert.
 - a. A
 - b. The
 - c. No article
6. This book has won Booker prize.
 - a. a
 - b. the
 - c. No article
7. Harishchandra was honest king.
 - a. a
 - b. an
 - c. the
8. I am fond of classical music.
 - a. a
 - b. the
 - c. No article

9. I met boy in the store.
a. a
b. an
c. the
10. Gold is precious metal.
a. a
b. an
c. the
11. She returned after hour.
a. a
b. an
c. the
12. There is institution for blind in this city.
a. an, a
b. an, the
c. the, the

Answers (<https://www.englishgrammar.org/articles-exercise-3/>)

1. Man is mortal. (No article is needed.)
2. I am a university student.
3. She goes to temple in the mornings.
4. Kiran is the best student in the class.
5. The camel is the ship of the desert.
6. This book has won the Booker prize.
7. Harishchandra was an honest king.
8. I am fond of classical music. (No article is needed.)
9. I met a boy in the store.
10. Gold is a precious metal.
11. She returned after an hour.
12. There is an institution for the blind in this city.

Articles exercise

Fill in the gaps with a, an, the (<https://www.focus.olsztyn.pl/en-grammar-articles-test-7.html>)

1. boy came to see me today. boy brought letter from my friend.
2. I bought book yesterday. book I bought is novel.
3. We saw house at end of the street. house we saw was white.
4. John wants to make walk. walk which he wants to make must be a long one.
5. Give me apple. apple you gave me is too hard to eat.
6. young girl was seated in front of me. girl had dog. My son started to play with dog.
7. I wrote exercise yesterday, and I wanted to know if exercise was written correctly.
8. There were two friends: old sailor and small boy. boy often visited sailor in his poor hut.
9. traveller arrived at the inn. inn was full of people and traveller could not get near the fire.
10. lady called one day at house where there were two children: boy and girl. When lady entered house she found boy and girl reading books

Ans:-

1. **A** boy came to see me today. **The** boy brought **a** letter from my friend.
2. I bought **a** book yesterday. **The** book I bought is **a** novel.
3. We saw **a** house at **the** end of the street. **The** house we saw was white.
4. John wants to make **a** walk. **The** walk which he wants to make must be a long one.
5. Give me **an** apple. **The** apple you gave me is too hard to eat.
6. **A** young girl was seated in front of me. **The** girl had **a** dog. My son started to play with **the** dog.
7. I wrote **an** exercise yesterday, and I wanted to know if **the** exercise was written correctly.
8. There were two friends: **an** old sailor and **a** small boy. **The** boy often visited **the** sailor in his poor hut.
9. **A** traveller arrived at the inn. **The** inn was full of people and **the** traveller could not get near the fire.
10. **A** lady called one day at **the** house, there were two children: **a** boy and **a** girl. When **the** lady entered **the** house she found **the** boy and **the** girl reading books.

Resources & Reference:-

<https://oxfordhousebcn.com/en/how-to-use-articles-a-an-the-in-english/>
<https://www.englishgrammar.org/articles-exercise-3/>
<https://www.focus.olsztyn.pl/en-grammar-articles-test-7.html>
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/speak-spell>

Dear Students

Read, Write and Practice it! You can add more examples. You can do more practice! This is just sample/example. It will help you to write meaningful sentence.

This is purely non-business activity----just for spreading awareness-----most of the content is from <https://oxfordhousebcn.com/en/how-to-use-articles-a-an-the-in-english/>

Best Wishes

Regards