

## THE ARTICLES

Definite Article – ‘The’

Indefinite Article – ‘A’ or ‘An’

‘A’ is used:

Before a word which begins with a *consonant*.

Example: *a* woman

Before a *singular, countable noun*.

Example: *a* banana

When we mention something for the *first time*.

Example: I saw *a* dog.

Before a word with a long sound of ‘u’.

Example: a university, a uniform, a useful book, a European,

Before the word one. Example: *a* one-way street, *a* one-eyed man, a one-year course, a one-day holiday, etc.

‘An’ is used:

Before a noun which begins with a vowel.

Example: an apple.

Before a word which begins with a vowel sound or a silent ‘h’.

Example: an hour, an honest man, an heir, an honour, an honourable man, etc

Before a singular, countable noun which begins with a vowel or silent ‘h’.

Example: an orange

‘The’ is used:

1. When the same thing or person *mentioned again*, that is, *a particular thing or person*.

Example: I bought *an* orange.

*The* orange is sweet..

2. When there is *only one such thing*.

Example: *the* earth, *the* sun, *the* moon.

3. Before the names of famous buildings, etc.

Example: *The* Eiffel Tower, *The* Great Wall

of China.

4. When a singular noun is used *to point out a whole class, race, group, etc.*

Example: *The* bear is a strong animal.

5. Before the *special names* of rivers, seas, oceans, mountain ranges, groups of islands, certain organizations, political parties, and countries such as the U.S.A., the U.K., the U.S.S.R. and the U.A.E., *The* Nile, *The* Dead Sea, *The* Pacific Ocean, *The* Himalayas, *The* United Nations, *The* Republican Party, etc.

6. Before the names of holy or important books.

Example: *The* Koran, *The* Bible.

7. Before an adjective when the noun is understood.

Example: *The* poor need help.

**Articles are not used:**

1. Before the *name of a person*:

Example: I am a fan of Michael Jackson.

(not A or The Michael Jackson)

2. Before the *name of a place, town, country, street, or road*.

Example: Barcelona is a beautiful city.

(not A or The Barcelona)

3. Before names of materials.

Example: Gold is found in Australia.

(not A or The gold)

4. Before abstract nouns used in a general sense.

Example: We love all beauty.

(not a beauty or the beauty)

**Exercise**

**Fill each blank with ‘a’, ‘an’, ‘the’ or leave it blank.**

1. He left \_\_\_\_\_ home without informing anyone.

2. There is \_\_\_\_\_ box of sweets on \_\_\_\_\_ table.

3. Do you need \_\_\_\_\_ degree in Economics or \_\_\_\_\_ degree in finance to be a better manager?

4. When we arrived, she went straight to \_\_\_\_\_ kitchen and started to prepare \_\_\_\_\_ meal for us.

5. He has \_\_\_\_\_ cut on his leg and \_\_\_\_\_ bruise on \_\_\_\_\_ chin.

6. Mt. Everest is \_\_\_\_\_ highest mountain in \_\_\_\_\_ world.

7. Switch off \_\_\_\_\_ air-conditioner please. I have \_\_\_\_\_ cold.

8. We reached \_\_\_\_\_ top of \_\_\_\_\_ hill during \_\_\_\_\_ afternoon.

9. Do you like \_\_\_\_\_ weather here? Isn't it too hot during \_\_\_\_\_ day but it is very cold at night?

10. \_\_\_\_\_ attempt has been made to collect funds to start \_\_\_\_\_ public library in \_\_\_\_\_ town where I live.

**Answers**

1.— 2.a, the 3.a,a 4.the,a 5.a, a, the

6.the,the 7.the,a 8.the,a, the 9.the,the, 10.an, a, the