

# ENGLISH GRAMMAR



**Articles**

# Articles

A

An

The



A Girl



An Orange



The Book

ARTICLE

rules

(a, an, the)



Alphabets are  
divided into two  
groups

VOWELS

A, E, I, O, U

CONSONANTS

B, C, D, E, F, G, H,  
I, J, K, L, M, N, P,  
Q, R, S, T, V, W, X,  
Y, Z

# A

- **"A"** is used in front of singular countable nouns (a person, animal or thing) which are not specific.
- We don't use a before uncountable or plural nouns.
- If a noun starts with a consonant sound (b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, etc.), "a" comes before the noun.



E.g. a dog, a chicken, a boy, a teacher, a girl, a lesson, a website, etc.

# An

- **"AN"** is used in front of singular countable nouns which are not specific.
- We don't use a before uncountable or plural nouns.
- If the noun starts with a vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u), "an" comes before the noun.

E.g. an umbrella, an owl, an image, an hour, an enemy, an author, etc.

# The

- We use **'THE'** in front of all nouns (It does not matter whether the nouns are singular, plural countable or uncountable) to describe someone or something specific or unique.

E.g. the Moon, the world, the Sun, the atmosphere, the rain, the South, the West, the North, etc.



# ARTICLES

## A

- use before a **singular, countable** noun that begins with a **consonant sound**.



A dog.



A book.

## AN

- use before a **singular, countable** noun that begins with a **vowel sound**.



An egg.



An apple.

- Use **a** before nouns beginning with consonants (for example: **a** book, **a** cup, **a** picture)

**a** **b**ook



**a** **c**up



- Use **an** before nouns beginning with vowels (for example: **an** apple, **an** orange, **an** egg).

**a**n **a**pple



**a**n **o**range





# HOW TO USE A-AN

## Usage

- Used before words beginning with a consonant sound

- Used before words that begin with a vowel sound.

- A(an) should agree with the first sound in the adjectives or the adverb-adjective combination which stands before a noun.

- Use A before words, letters, numbers which sound like they begin with consonant even if the first letter is a vowel

- Use AN before words, letters, numbers which sound like they start with a vowel even if the first letter is a consonant

## Examples



a man



a lamp



a cat



an apple



an eraser



an umbrella



an 80-year-old man



a golden necklace



a pretty girl



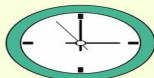
a euro



a university



a "1"



an hour



an F



an 8



**A** and **AN** have the same meaning. **A** and **AN** are indefinite articles. The difference depends on the sound at the beginning of the next word.

When the next word starts with a  
**CONSONANT** SOUND

**A**

**a** book    **a** frog  
**a** car      **a** lemon  
**a** dog      **a** truck

When the next word starts with a  
**VOWEL** SOUND

**AN**

**an** apple    **an** orange  
**an** egg      **an** umbrella  
**an** insect    **an** actor

**BE CAREFUL!** The **SOUND** of the letter is important

**a** house    BUT    **an** hour

The **H** at the beginning of **hour** is **silent**.

**an** uncle    BUT    **a** university

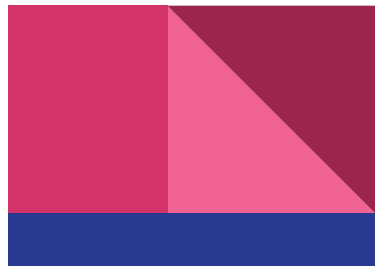
The **U** at the beginning of **university** sounds like **YOU**.

This rule applies to all words after **A** or **AN** (including adjectives, adverbs...)

**a** cold day                      **an** easy lesson  
**a** very crazy person        **an** interesting class

# DEFINITE ARTICLE (the)

USE	EXAMPLE	NOTES
with adjectives, to refer to a whole group of people (as plural nouns), families, nationalities ending in – sh, -ch, -ese	<b>the</b> Japanese, <b>the</b> English, <b>the</b> Dutch, <b>the</b> Greens, <b>the</b> old, the poor, the rich	Other plural nationalities are used with or without “the” The Greeks, the Italians, Latvians (the Latvians)
With the words: beach, cinema, country (side), ground, jungle, radio, sea, seaside, theatre, world, station, shop, pub, library	He likes going to the theatre. She went to the station to meet Jim.	We often say “television” without “the” . We often watch <b>television</b> . But! Turn on <b>the television (set)</b> .
Before “most” (as a superlative)	She is <b>the most</b> beautiful girl.	<b>Don't use “the” if “most” is as a determiner followed by a noun.</b> <b>Most</b> people believe he is a liar.
Morning, afternoon, evening	I'll be at home in the evening.	But don't use with: at <b>night</b> , <b>at noon</b> , <b>at midnight</b> , <b>at 4 o'clock</b> , <b>by day/ night</b>
Historical references/events	The Renaissance, the Middle Ages, the First World War	<b>But:</b> World War I



Has the noun  
already been  
mentioned?

Where's the bathroom?  
On the first floor.

Do both speakers  
know what is  
being talked about?

Where's the bathroom?  
On the first floor.

Are you identifying  
a particular person  
or object?

The book on the shelf is mine.

Is the noun  
a superlative  
or number?

The first page  
The highest building

If yes,  
use the!

Are the objects  
referred to unique?

The sun  
The moon  
The world

Is there an  
adjective describing a  
nationality or group?

The elderly  
The Chinese

Are you identifying  
a geographical area  
or ocean?

The Atlantic  
The Sahara

Are you describing  
a decade or  
group of years?

The 1970s  
The 1800s

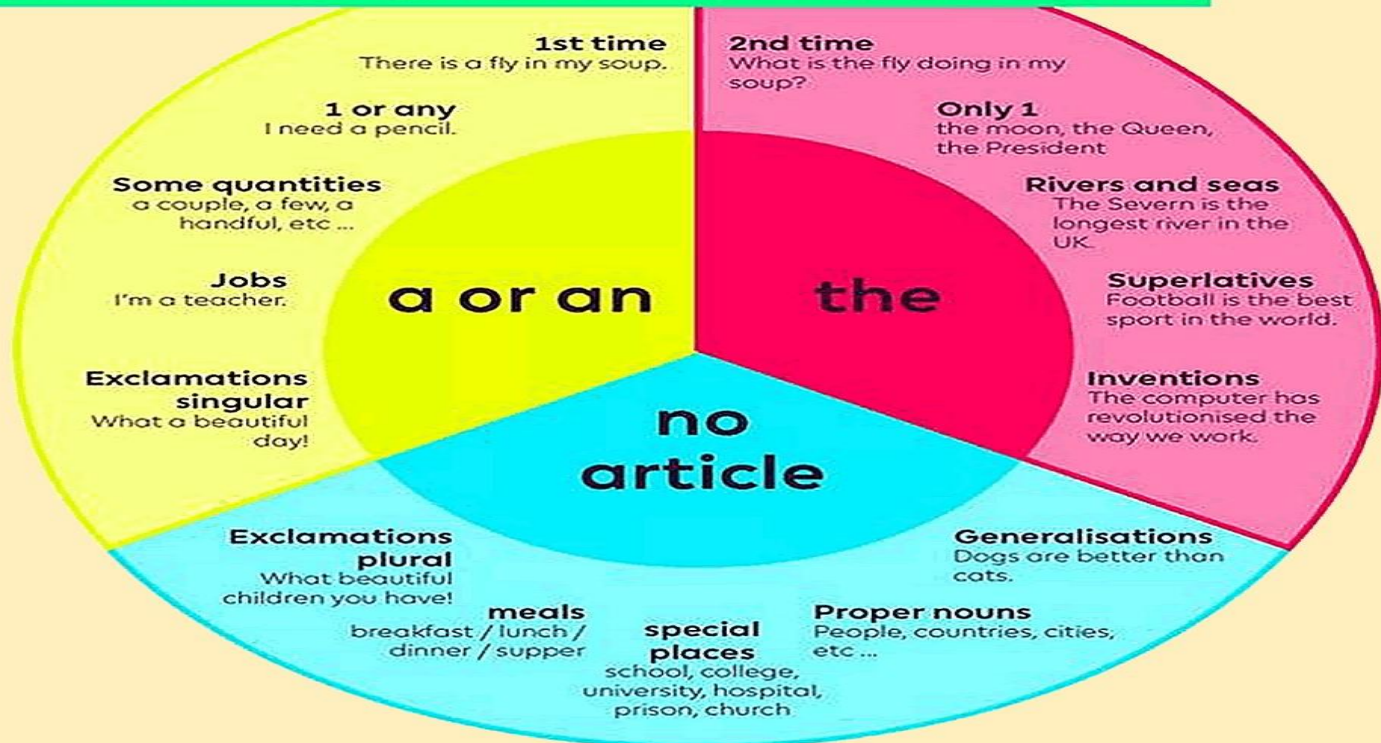
GREAT JOB!



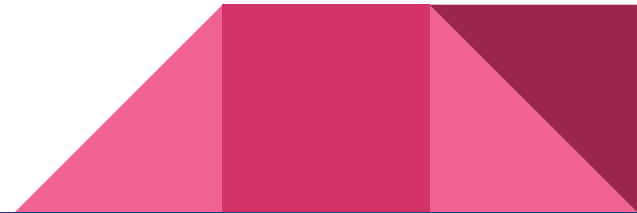
A an the articles



## Understanding Grammar - a, an or the



Complete the exercise given in the next slide in your notebook.



# a an the or nothing



- |                        |                        |                                   |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. _____ egg           | 21. _____ New York     | 41. _____ Rocky Mountains         |
| 2. _____ Hilton Hotel  | 22. _____ mechanic     | 42. _____ milk                    |
| 3. _____ lawyer        | 23. _____ strawberries | 43. _____ Netherlands             |
| 4. _____ mommy         | 24. _____ strawberry   | 44. _____ my cousin               |
| 5. _____ my dog        | 25. _____ best movie   | 45. _____ New York Times          |
| 6. _____ Bella         | 26. _____ tallest man  | 46. _____ moon                    |
| 7. _____ USA           | 27. _____ work         | 47. _____ piano                   |
| 8. _____ school        | 28. _____ Sicily       | 48. _____ basketball              |
| 9. _____ Pacific Ocean | 29. _____ France       | 49. _____ home                    |
| 10. _____ dinosaurs    | 30. _____ China        | 50. _____ Indonesia               |
| 11. _____ Alps         | 31. _____ prison       | 51. _____ Greeks                  |
| 12. _____ morning      | 32. _____ Angelina     | 52. _____ our family              |
| 13. _____ vet          | 33. _____ Brad         | 53. _____ 1 <sup>st</sup> of June |
| 14. _____ Fifth Avenue | 34. _____ water        | 54. _____ Africa                  |
| 15. _____ Greece       | 35. _____ salt         | 55. _____ Egypt                   |
| 16. _____ Panayiotis   | 36. _____ Mrs. Smith   | 56. _____ Virginia                |
| 17. _____ UK           | 37. _____ university   | 57. _____ telephones              |
| 18. _____ sun          | 38. _____ New York     | 58. _____ hundred                 |
| 19. _____ guitar       | 39. _____ Red Cross    | 59. _____ million                 |
| 20. _____ bed          | 40. _____ Gobi Desert  | 60. _____ teddy bear              |

# AECS KAIGA

THANK YOU  
BY PRABHAKARAN T K  
TGT SS