

## Articles

A, An and The are called articles. They are essentially demonstrative adjectives. A and An are called indefinite articles and The is called the definite article .

Examples :

1. A letter was sent to Mohan.
2. An umbrella was bought for Sita.
3. The sun is just rising.
4. The king of Afghanistan will be visiting India.

A and An are called indefinite articles because they are used when we do not specify a particular person or thing we are referring to, the person or thing remains indefinite.

Example I saw a man standing on the road. (Some man not definite)

but when you say, The boy, who won the prize, was a student of this school, you are referring to a particular boy and hence the definite article is used.

The is called the definite article because it is used to refer to a particular person or thing.

## A & An

A is used with words beginning with a consonant sounds.

1. Words which begin with consonants (including 'y' and also 'h' when it is pronounced).  
Example. A boy, a horse, a human being, a historical novel, a young man, a year.
2. Words beginning with certain vowels which have a consonant sound words which begin with 'y' sound. Examples. A University, a unit, a European, a uniform
3. Words which begin with a 'w' sound.  
Example A one legged man and, A one rupee coin, A one way ticket
4. An is used before words beginning with A vowel sound.(a,e,i,o,u)  
Example. An arm chair, an American, an Australian, an enemy, an eye
5. Words beginning with A silent 'h'.  
Example. an hour, an honour, an honest man, an heir

## Uses of The definite article

The definite article is used in various context:

1. When we speak of things which are the only ones of their kind.  
Example: the sun, the moon, the sea, the earth , the sky
2. When we speak of a particular person or thing.  
Example: The boy ,who stood first, was given a prize.

Call the man waiting outside.

3. When a person or thing has already been mentioned earlier, The definite article is used in later reference to that particular person or thing.

Example: I saw a beggar near the bus stop; the fellow came to me for help.

4. When a single noun is used to represent the whole class.

Example.

1. The Lotus is a lovely flower.
2. The camel is the ship of the desert.
3. Can the leopard change its spots

5. Before the names of rivers, gulfs, seas, groups of islands, mountain ranges.

Example. The Ganges, the Mississippi, the Persian gulf the Pacific Ocean, the Himalayas, The Andaman's.

6. Before the names of certain well known books.

Example: the Bible, the Ramayana, the Quran

7. Before a proper noun when it is used as a common noun.

Example: Kalidasa is the Shakespeare of India.

Einstein is the Newton of our age.

8. Before an adjective the superlative degree.

Example. The longest has the shortest night.

Socrates was the wisest of Greek philosophers.

9. Before an adjective to make it a noun in the plural.

Example. The rich must help the poor.

#### **Cases where articles should not be used**

1. Before proper nouns.

*Tagore* was a truly great poet.

*Delhi* is the capital of India.

*Everest* is the highest peak in the world.

2. Before abstract nouns

*Wisdom* is better than riches

3. Before material nouns.

*Iron* and *steel* are controlled commodities.

THANK YOU.

