

# Articles

Unit I

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# The Articles

- The words **a** or **an** and **the** are called Articles. They come before nouns.
- **A or an** is called the indefinite Article, because it usually leaves indefinite the person or thing spoken of.
- **The** is called the Definite article, because it normally points out some particular person or things

# Indefinite article


- Article ‘a’ is used before singular nouns that begin with a consonant sound.
- Eg: a ball, a good boy, a young man, a reindeer, a woman, a yard, a horse, a hole
- Sometimes ‘a’ is used before a singular noun that begins with a vowel letter but not with a vowel sound.
- Eg: a union member, a European, a one rupee note, a one-eyed man (these words begin with consonant sounds namely ‘Yunion’, ‘Yuropian’, ‘wun rupee’. When they are pronounced)

- Article 'an' is used before singular nouns that begin with a vowel sound.
- Eg: an aircraft, an egg, an ink bottle, an old man, an umbrella
- An is used before a word beginning with 'h' which is not sounded
- Eg: an honest man, an honour, an hour
- Sometimes 'as' is used before an abbreviation of a singular noun that begins with a consonant letter but not with a consonant sound when pronounced. a det, an SI,
- Eg: an FRCA, an MLA, an MP, an LKG boy, an LIC agent, an NCC

- Eg: Once there was **a** king.
- You must consult **a** doctor.
- There is **a** book on the table.
- Mr. Rajan is **a** teacher,
- Mano is **a** clever student.
- It is sixty rupees **a** dozen.
- He runs eight kms **an** hour.
- Take this medicine twice **a** day.
- A tiger is **a** wild animal.
- He spoke like **a** minister.
- He is **a** lion

# Definite article 'the'

- The definite article has only one form, 'the'. It is called 'definite article', because it specifies and identifies a particular person or thing. It answers the question 'which one?'. It is used before singular and plural nouns.
- When we talk about a particular person or thing, or one already referred to
- **The** book you want is out of print.
- Let's go to **the** park.
- **The** girl cried.

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- When a singular noun is meant to represent a whole class.
  - **The** cow is useful animal.
  - **The** horse is a noble animal.
  - **The** cat loves comfort.
  - **The** rose is the sweetest of all flowers.
  - **The** banyan is a kind of fig tree.

# Before some proper names

- Oceans and sea, eg, **the Pacific, the black sea**
- Rivers e.g. **The Ganga, the Nile**
- Canals e.g., **the Suez canal**
- Deserts e.g. **The Sahara**
- Groups of Islands, e'g. **The west Indies**
- Mountain-ranges e.g. **The Himalayas , the Alps**
- A very few names of countries, which include words like **republic and kingdom** e'g' **the Irish republic, the United kingdom, The Ukraine, the Netherlands**



- Before the names of certain books: as, **The Vedas, The Purana's, The Iliad, The Ramayana, The Mahabharata**
- Before names of things unique of their kind; as, **The Sun, The Sky, The Ocean, The Sea, The earth.**
- Before a proper noun when it is qualified by an adjective or a defining adjectival clause: as, **the great Caesar: The immortal Shakespeare. The Mr. Roy whom you met last night is my uncle.**

- With Superlatives; as **The darkest cloud has a silver lining. This is the best book of elementary chemistry.**
- With ordinals; as, **He was the first man to arrive. The ninth chapter of the book is very interesting.**
- Before an adjective when the noun is understood; as' **The poor are always with us.**
- Before musical instrument; as, **He can play the flute.**

# ‘the’ is not used

- Before **proper names of persons**
- Eg: **Moorthy** is an officer.
- **Mani** is a teacher.
- Before names **of villages, cities, countries and continents.**  
**Also before names of streets and park.**
- Eg: My village is **Elure**.
- **India** is our country.
- **Columbus** discovered **America**.
- My house is in **R T Nagar**.

- Before **abstract nouns**.
- Eg: Gandhiji's Policies are **truth and non violence**.
- I am not afraid of **death**.
- Before the names of **materials and uncountable**
- Eg: The necklace is made of **gold**.
- Where do we get **iron** from?
- I want **coffee**.
- Before **name of meals**
- Eg. **Dinner** is ready
- We will discuss the problem at **Lunch**.

# Omission of 'the'

- The definite article 'the' is omitted, when the names of certain places or buildings are used with the primary purpose of the same. When the same nouns are used for any other purpose, 'the' is used. The names of such places are: bed, church, hospital, court, jail, market, school, college, home, etc.,
- Eg. Joseph goes **to church** on Sundays.(for prayer)
- Siva was going **to the church**.(to meet his friend)
- He went **to market**.( to buy vegetables)
- I will go **to the market**. (only to visit the place)

- **The** boy is going **to school**. (to learn)
- His father is going **to the school**.
- Sheela is **in hospital**.
- Her father is going **to the hospital**.
- They go **to bed** at 9.00 pm daily.
- He is on **the bed**.
- Yet, some names of places take **'the'**, irrespective of the purpose of the visit. Such nouns are 'office', 'temple', 'University', etc



**Thank you**