



Introduction

Definition: "A", "an" and "the" are known as articles. There are two types of article:

- ❖ Indefinite Articles - a and an
- ❖ Definite Article - the



Indefinite Articles 'A and An'

Definition: 'A' and 'An' are called indefinite articles because they refer to any person, animal thing or place.



Uses of indefinite Articles 'A' and 'An'

'A' is used before Singular Countable Noun beginning with either vowel or consonant but sounds like consonant.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



- ❖ There is a girl in the class.
- ❖ My brother is a teacher.
- ❖ He reads in a university.
- ❖ I have a one rupee note.

In the above given sentences, 'a' is used before a word starting from consonant or vowel but sounds like consonant. In the first and second sentences 'a' is used before girl and teacher. These two words start from consonant and sound like consonant. In the third and fourth sentences 'a' is used before university and one. These two words start from vowel but sound like a consonant. Therefore, 'a' is used before them.

'An' is used before a Singular Countable Noun beginning with consonant or vowel but sounds like vowel.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



- ❖ Steve presented an example in front of the audience.
- ❖ It was an easy task.
- ❖ Our Prime Minister is an honest man.
- ❖ Sonia Gandhi is an M.P.

In the above given sentences, 'an' is used before the words which start from vowel or consonant but sound like vowel. In the first and second sentences 'an' is used before example and easy which start from vowel and sound like a vowel. In the third and fourth sentences 'an' is used before honest and M.P. which start from consonant but sound like a vowel.

Commonly Asked

QUESTIONS



Frankling is _____ European.

- (A) A (B) An
(C) The (D) All of these
(D) None of these

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The word European begins with the letter 'E' which is a vowel but It sounds like a consonant.



Pallavi is _____ intelligent girl.

- (A) A (B) The
(C) An (D) None of these
(D) All of these

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The word intelligent begins with the letter 'i' which is a vowel and also sounds like a vowel.



Definite Article 'the'

Definite Article (the) points out a particular person, animal, thing or place. 'The' is used before a noun beginning with a consonant or a vowel sound.

Illustrative EXAMPLE

- ❖ This is the boy who came first in the race.
- ❖ The Quran is a holy book of the Muslim.

In the above given sentences, 'the' has been used before boy, race, Quran and Muslim (all nouns) which are definite or particular person or thing. These particular person or thing may begin with both sounds - consonant or vowel,



Uses of definite Article 'The'

The' is used before the following:

- ❖ Before a class of noun. E.g. the man is a social animal.
- ❖ Before the superlative degrees of Adjective. E.g. The best
- ❖ Before a noun which has been mentioned earlier. Saurav saw a bird. The bird was beautiful.
- ❖ Before the names of national, religion and caste. Eg. The Hindu, the Indian.
- ❖ Before the names of famous building - The Red Fort.
- ❖ Before the names of sea, river or valley. E.g. The pacific, The Ganga, The Bay of Bengal
- ❖ Before the names of few countries. E.g. The U.S.A., The UK
- ❖ Before the names of religious book. E.g. the Ramayana.

'The' is used before the names of holy books, rivers, oceans, mountains, monuments, newspapers, heavenly bodies, etc.

- ❖ The Ramayana, The Geeta, The Bible, The Quran.
- ❖ The Ganga, The Yamuna, The Nile.
- ❖ The Indian Ocean, The Pacific Ocean.

- ❖ The Himalayas, The Alps.
- ❖ The Taj Mahal, The Victoria Memorial, The Red fort.
- ❖ The Times of India, The Hindustan times, The Hindu.
- ❖ The Sun, The Moon, The Sky, The Earth, The Star.

Commonly Asked QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with suitable article:



_____ Geeta is a holy book of Hindu.

- (A) A
- (B) The
- (C) An
- (D) All of these
- (E) None of these

Answer: (B)

Explanation : 'The' is used before the names of holy book.



_____ Sun gives light in the sky.

- (A) The
- (B) A
- (C) An
- (D) All of these
- (E) None of these

Answer: (A)

Explanation: 'The' is used before the names of heavenly bodies.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



- ❖ **A** is used before a noun beginning with a consonant sound.
- ❖ **An** is used before a noun beginning with a vowel sound.
- ❖ **The** is used before a noun beginning with a consonant or a vowel sound but these nouns refer to definite or particular nouns.
- ❖ **The** is used before the names of holy books, rivers, oceans, mountains, monuments, newspapers, heavenly bodies, etc.
- ❖ Indefinite articles are not used with uncountable nouns.
- ❖ Article is not used before the names of games. Such as - He plays hockey.
- ❖ Article is not used before some diseases like cholera, malaria, fever, typhoid etc.
- ❖ Article is not used before the names of festival.
- ❖ Article is not used before Plural Countable Nouns when they indicate a class.
- ❖ No article is used before the names of language.
- ❖ No article is used before Proper Noun, Material Noun and Abstract Noun.



It is _____ great modesty from your side.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------|
| (A) A | (B) An |
| (C) The | (D) And |
| (E) None of these | |



_____ Ganga is a holy river of India.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------|
| (A) A | (B) An |
| (C) The | (D) And |
| (E) None of these. | |



Mr. Sumanth is _____ English teacher.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------|
| (A) But | (B) A |
| (C) An | (D) The |
| (E) None of these | |



The decision will be taken within _____ hour or so.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| (A) The | (B) A |
| (C) An | (D) All of these |
| (E) None of these | |



_____ apple you ate was rotten.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------|
| (A) A | (B) An |
| (C) The | (D) Or |
| (E) None of these | |



_____ US is one of the oldest democracy of the world.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| (A) A | (B) An |
| (C) The | (D) All of these |
| (E) None of these | |



_____ Taj Mahal was built by Shahjahan.

- | | |
|--------|------------------|
| (A) An | (B) The |
| (C) A | (D) All of these |



(E) None of these



Mahatma Gandhijee was _____ honest patriot.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------|
| (A) An | (B) A |
| (C) But | (D) The |
| (E) None of these | |
-



I want _____ bunch of keys.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------|
| (A) The | (B) An |
| (C) Or | (D) A |
| (E) None of these | |
-



_____ Sikhs, the Hindus and the Muslims live in India.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------|
| (A) The | (B) An |
| (C) Or | (D) A |
| (E) None of these | |
-

Explanation for selected Questions

1. The word 'great' begins with the letter 'g' which is a consonant and also sounds like a consonant.

2. 'The' is used before the names of rivers.

3. 'An' is used before a word which starts from a vowel and sounds like vowel.

4. 'An' is used before a word which starts from vowel and consonant but sounds like a vowel.

5. 'The' is used before a specific noun.

6. 'The' is used before the names of few countries.

7. 'The' is used before the names of monuments.

8. 'An' is used before a word which starts from vowel or consonant but sounds like vowel.

9. A bunch keys ('A' is used like group of words "a folk of cattle, a bunch of keys", etc.)

10. 'The' is used before the names of communities.

Answers

1. A	2. C	3. C	4. C	5. C	6. C	7. B	8. A	9. D	10. A
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