



Introduction

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

- (i) Indefinite Articles- a and an
- (ii) Definite Article - the



Indefinite Articles 'A and an'

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



Use of A

- (i) 'A' is used before a word which starts with a consonant.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



- ❖ There is a girl in the class.
- ❖ My sister is a teacher.
- ❖ I saw a baby crying.
- ❖ I The girl has a toy.

In the above given sentences, 'a' is used before a word which starts from a consonant and sounds like a consonant.

- (ii) 'A' is also used before a word that starts with vowels but sounds like a consonant.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



- ❖ The camel is a useful animal.
- ❖ He reads in a university.
- ❖ Steve is a European.
- ❖ It was a one sided game.

In the above given sentences, 'a' is used before a word which starts from a vowel but sounds like a consonant.



Use of 'an'

- (i) 'An' is used before a word which starts from a vowel.

- ❖ He is an old man.
- ❖ He has an ink pot.
- ❖ Mr. Clinton is an American.
- ❖ He bought an egg and an umbrella.

In the above given sentences, 'an' is used before a word which starts from a vowel and sounds like a vowel.

- (ii) 'An' is also used before words that start with consonants but sound like vowels.

- ❖ He will come within an hour.
- ❖ He is an honest man.

- ❖ I met an M.P. who frequently visits his constituency.
- ❖ An M.L.A. can provide funds for the development work.

In the above given sentences, 'an' is used before a word which starts from a consonant but sounds like a vowel.

Points to keep in mind

- ❖ A and An are always used with singular nouns.
- ❖ A is used before a word which starts with a consonant sound.
- ❖ An is used before a word which starts with a vowel sound.

PRACTICE EXERCISE



Fill in the blanks with Indefinite Article.



They have _____ hour to catch the train.

Answer: An (here 'h' of hour is silent.)



She is _____ European.

Answer A (European though starts with a vowel, it sounds like a consonant)



_____ one eyed giant monster destroyed the park.

Answer: A (one eyed sounds like a consonant)



He wants to buy _____ ball.

Answer: A (Singular noun)

Commonly Asked QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with Indefinite Article.



In European country you need to follow the rules strictly.

(A) A

(B) An

- (C) The
(E) All of these
- (D) None of these

Answer: (a)

Explanation: The word European is pronounced as a consonant.



Lina is _____ intelligent girl.

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

Answer: (C)

Explanation: The letter i in intelligent is a vowel. Article 'an' is used before *a, e, i, o, u* having a vowel sound.



Definite Article 'The'

Definite Article (the) points out a particular person, animal, thing or place.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



- ❖ This is the boy who came first in the race.
- ❖ The pen that you purchased for me is lost.
- ❖ I dislike the boy who stole my book in the class.
- ❖ The Northern belt of our country is covered with the Himalayan Mountains.
- ❖ The Red Sea is different from the Black Sea.

In the above given sentences, the is used to point out a particular person, animal, thing or place.



Uses of Definite Article 'The'

'The' is used before the following:

- (i) A class of noun.
E.g. The man.
- (ii) Before the Superlative Degree of Adjective.
E.g. The best.
- (iii) Before the words to express quantity.
E.g. Wheat is sold by the kilogram.
- (iv) Before a noun which has been mentioned earlier.
E.g. I saw a tiger. The tiger was looking dangerous.
- (v) Before the names of national, religion and caste.
E.g. The Hindu, The Indian.
- (vi) The names of famous building.
E.g. The Red Fort.
- (vii) The names of sea, river or valley.
E.g. The Pacific, The Ganga, The Bay of Bengal
- (viii) Names of some countries,

- E.g. The U.S.A., The U.K.
(ix) Names of religious book.
E.g. The Ramayan.

'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.

PRACTICE EXERCISE

Fill in the blanks with Definite Article.



Allahabad is _____ holy city.

Answer: Allahabad is a holy city.



_____ Quran is a holy book of Muslim.

Answer: The Quran is a holy book of Muslim.



Give me _____ pen which I bought yesterday.

Answer: Give me the pen which I bought yesterday.



_____ hare runs fast.

Answer: The hare fast.

Commonly Asked QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with suitable article A, An and The.



_____ **Geeta is a holy book of Hindus.**

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: 'The' is used before holy book like The Ramayan, The Geeta, The Bible, The Mahabharat, The Quran, etc.



_____ **Sun gives us light.**

- (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.

Fill in the blanks with A, An or The wherever necessary.

1. _____ sun rises in _____ sky.
2. _____ moon is a heavenly body.
3. _____ Principal rewarded _____ boy.
4. _____ king had _____ son and two daughters.

Answer: 1. (The, the) 2. (The) 3. (The, a) 4. (The, a)

Sometimes Articles are omitted before the words used to represent some basic facts a universal truth.

- ❖ Soul is immortal.
- ❖ Man is mortal.
- ❖ Earth revolves round the sun.

Before an Abstract Noun

- ❖ Honesty is the best policy.

Before the word representing a metal or a Material Noun:

- ❖ Iron is the most used metal in industry.
- ❖ Gold is a precious metal.
- ❖ Silver shines more than iron.

SUMMARY



- ❖ 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 name of games. Such as - He plays cricket.
 - ❖ 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.
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Self Evaluation TEST



Duration
10 Minutes

Fill in the blanks with A, An or the wherever necessary



That was _____ enjoyable movie.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| (A) A | (B) An |
| (C) The | (D) And |
| (E) But | |



I will take you to _____ nearest place from where you can take a taxi.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| (A) A | (B) An |
| (C) The | (D) But |
| (E) And | |



Who is _____ manager of this company.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| (A) But | (B) A |
| (C) An | (D) The |
| (E) And | |



_____ TajMahal was built by Shahjahan.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| (A) The | (B) A |
| (C) An | (D) And |
| (E) But | |



James has _____ small box.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| (A) A | (B) An |
| (C) The | (D) But |
| (E) And | |



I had _____ bag in which there was _____ letter.

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



The girl found _____ one rupee coin on the road.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| (A) An | (B) The |
| (C) A | (D) But |
| (E) And | |



Mahatma Gandhi was _____ honest patriot.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| (A) An | (B) A |
| (C) But | (D) The |
| (E) And | |



Mr. James is _____ European.

- | | |
|---------|--------|
| (A) The | (B) An |
| (C) Or | (D) A |
| (E) But | |



Sikhs, the Hindus and the Muslims live in India.

- | | |
|---------|--------|
| (A) The | (B) An |
| (C) Or | (D) A |
| (E) And | |
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Self Evaluation Test

SOLUTIONS



Explanation for selected Questions

1. That was an enjoyable movie.

2. I will take you to the nearest place from where you can take a taxi.

3. Who is the manager of this company.

4. The Taj Mahal was built by Shahjahan.

5. James has a small box.

6. I had a bag in which there was a letter.

7. 'A' is used before a noun beginning with a consonant sound.

8. Honest sounds like a vowel.

9. Mr. James is a European.

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

Answer

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