

A, **an** and **the** are called **articles**

A and **an** mean one.

1. A boy is buying a book from a book-seller.

We use **a** before words beginning with *consonant* sounds.

2. An apple, an orange and an egg are lying near an empty box.

We use **an** before words beginning with *vowel* sounds.

3. The handle of the broken jar is lying on the floor.

We use **the** when we mean a particular person or thing.

In sentence 1, we have used **a** with singular nouns beginning with a consonant sound, e.g., a book, a cat, a useful animal, a one-rupee note. The 'u' in useful is pronounced as **yoo** (a consonant sound) and 'o' in 'one' is pronounced as **w** in won (consonant sound).

In sentence 2, we have used **an** with words which begin with a vowel sound or silent 'h' e.g., an owl, an hour, an honest man. Hour is pronounced as **our** and honest as **onest**.

In sentence 3, we have used **the** before particular nouns.



Remember

1. A and An are called the **Indefinite Articles** because they do not point out any particular or definite persons or things.
2. The is called the **Definite Article** because it points out a particular person or thing.

Note:

1. Articles A, An and The work as **Demonstrative Adjectives**

2. **No article is used before Proper Nouns:**

Mumbai is a big city.

Ashok was a great king.

3. **The** is used **before** the names of **rivers, oceans, certain group of people or races, mountain ranges, famous buildings, holy books** and

unique objects:

The Ganga, the Yamuna, the Nile.

The Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal.

The Hindus, the Muslims, the Christians.

The Himalayas, the Alps.

The Taj Mahal, the Red Fort, the Meenakshi Temple.

The Gita, the Ramayana, the Bible.

The Earth, the Moon, the Sun, the Sky, the World.

4. **The** is used with both **singular** and **plural nouns**:

The bag is stolen.

The stolen bags are lying outside.

5. **A** and **An** are used only for **singular nouns** and are dropped when **nouns** are turned into **plural**.

- a. An umbrella is a useful thing. (*Singular*)

Umbrellas are useful things. (*Plural*)

- b. A doctor is a helpful person. (*Singular*)

Doctors are helpful persons. (*Plural*)

EXERCISES



Fill each blank with 'A' or 'An' or 'The':

1. I met an angry man.

2. An honest man will not pluck an apple, an orange or an apricot from an orchard.

3. The Quran is a holy book of the Muslims.

4. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

5. A European is not like an American.

6. The Ganges rises in the Himalayas.

7. The Taj is the finest tomb in the world.
8. A thief entered a jeweller's shop from the back-door. He broke the lock and stole a ring studded with the diamond.



Complete the following sentences by using articles, wherever necessary.

1. She gave me a banana and an orange.
2. Agra is on the bank of river Yamuna.
3. She bought a book, a pen and an eraser.
4. The Moon shines at night and the Sun during a day.
5. A European speaks English.
6. Satish is an honest man.
7. I have given him a one-rupee coin.
8. There is a university in the city.
9. The Nile is the longest river in the world.
10. I saw an aeroplane there.



Complete the following dialogues using 'a', 'an' or 'the'.

1. **Aryan:** What should I buy for Sonu on her birthday?
Mother: Buy her a useful gift like a book.
Aryan: I can get her an imported book. I know an American who sells imported books.
2. **Mother:** What are you doing Reena?
Reena: Mother, I am in the kitchen. I am making a cup of tea.
Mother: Can I have a glass of water? I am very thirsty.