

LESSON 1: THE ARTICLE

Explanations

An **article** is a word used to modify a noun; the noun can be a person, a place, an object or an idea.

There are 3 types of articles: **DEFINITE**, **INDEFINITE** AND **ZERO ARTICLE**. In this lesson, we will talk about **DEFINITE** and **INDEFINITE ARTICLES**.

➤ *INDEFINITE ARTICLE (A/AN)*

The indefinite article is used with singular nouns, which are not described.

- **AN** – is used before singular nouns that begin with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) or with mute *h*

Example: an apple an elephant an eagle
an ice cream an hour

- **A** – is used before singular nouns that begin with a consonant

Example: a book a dress a hat a table a violin

We use the indefinite article:

- ✓ for general description (when we want to say more about a noun)

Example: A bobcat is a wild animal, similar to a cat.

- ✓ to describe somebody's job

Example: My dad is a doctor.
John is an astronaut.

- ✓ to talk about the feature of a person

Example: Mary is a fool!

He is such a naive person.

✓ to say something about all things of the same kind

Example: A child like to eat candies. (= All children like to eat candies.)

REMEMBER!!!

We don't use an indefinite article with plurals or uncountable nouns.

Example: I have long blonde hair.

REMEMBER!!!

We always use an indefinite article after: what, such, half, quite, rather, without.

Example: Don't leave without an umbrella.

➤ DEFINITE ARTICLE (THE)

The definite article is used when we refer to something definite or described.

- When **the** is used before words which begin with a consonant, it is pronounced „**dhă**“.

Example: **the** cat **the** book

- When **the** is used before words which begin with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u), it is pronounced „**dhi**“.

Example: **the** apple **the** elephant

We use the definite article:

- ✓ When we refer to something which was already mentioned

Example: I saw a very good movie last night. **The** movie lasts 2 hours.

- ✓ In an expression with *of* or *which*
Example: Bucharest is **the** capital of Romania.
- ✓ Before the names of certain countries
Example: **the** United States of America
the United Kingdom **the** Lebanon **the** United Arab Emirates
- ✓ With a group of mountains, oceans, seas and rivers
Example: **the** Himalayas **the** Carpathians **the** Black Sea **the** Danube **the** Pacific Ocean
- ✓ With names of hotels, cinemas or theatres
Example: Is she staying at **the** Ramada Hotel?
- ✓ With parts of the day
Example: Did they have breakfast in **the** morning?
- ✓ With nationalities
Example: **the** Italians **the** Americans **the** Romanians
- ✓ With musical instruments
Example: She plays **the** piano. He plays **the** guitar.
- ✓ With adjectives when we want to describe a group
Example: **the** rich **the** poor **the** old
- ✓ With an official position
Example: **the** Queen **the** President
- ✓ With the name of a family
Example: **the** Smiths
- ✓ With fixed phrases
Example: on **the** other hand **the** sooner **the** better
by **the** way
- ✓ With time
Example: in **the** past in **the** future

REMEMBER!!!

We always use the definite article after: **both, half, quite, all, double, round**

Example: all **the** people
half **the** price

WORKSHEET 1

A. Fill in the blanks with „a“ or „an“.

1. African elephant can weigh up to 6000 kg.
2. I found bracelet while I was walking in the park.
3. Go to the supermarket and buy croissant and chocolate.
4. Sarah has good marks at the school. She is hardworking student.
5. I wish I could see eagle in the sky.
6. My sister wants to buy electric knife for her new kitchen.
7. apple a day, keeps the doctor away!
8. Eat orange and lemon a day to protect yourself from flu.
9. It's so hot in here. I would like to eat ice cream.
10. Sam has two flags at home: Japanese one and Italian one.

B. Use „a“ or „an“. Write the correct forms of the indefinite articles into the gaps.

1. There is red book on my desk.
2. My sister is reading old poem.
3. I have idea.
4. My mother is drinking cup of tea.
5. He is doctor.
6. This is expensive car.
7. My brother like to be astronaut.
8. Sam is such naive person.
9. Look! There's umbrellabird.
10. When I grow up, I want to be vet.

WORKSHEET 2

A. Complete the following sentences with *a* or *an*.

1. Sarah has French car.
2. My mom works in office in East Street.
3. My father has friend who is astronaut.
4. My brother is electrician.
5. Carla goes to special school for painters.
6. You are so silly! This is lion not tiger.
7. Sheila wants to go to university and study to be dentist.
8. Look! This is Italian restaurant. Let's have dinner here.
9. The rabbit is small wild animal.
10. I would like to drink orange juice.

B. Choose the correct article underlined in each sentence.

1. Turkey is a/an country.
2. That wasn't a/an easy question.
3. I'm so glad it's over. It was a/an very difficult test.
4. Mallorca is an/a island.
5. Celine Dion is a/an singer and Angelina Jolie is an/a actress.
6. There is an/a hotel on this street.
7. They are going to build a/an school near my house.
8. I arrived a/an hour later.
9. That girl is wearing an/a red dress.
10. Today is a/an beautiful day.

C. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

1. Sara teaches French.
Sara French teacher.