



**Class VI – ENGLISH**

**Topic 10- Articles (A/An/The)**

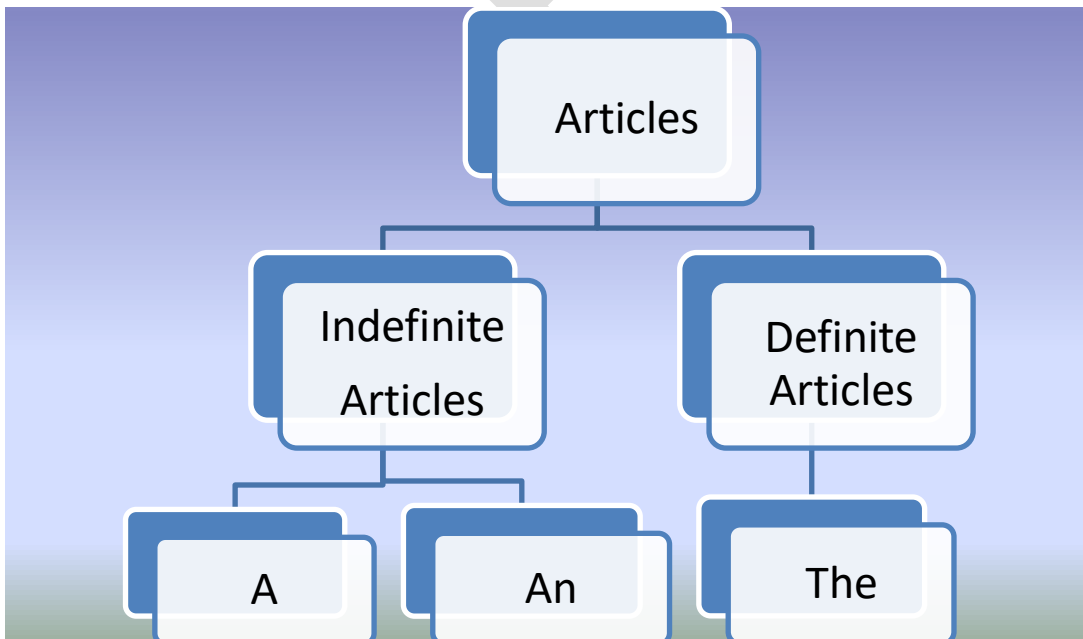
Dear Students

- This lesson is based on the topic 'Articles – A/An/The'
- The lesson is divided into two parts – the first is the lesson on 'Articles' and the second is a 'Fun with Writing' exercise for you to practice.
- The exercise on 'Articles' and 'Fun with Writing' must be attempted in the fair notebook.
- You may take a print out of the worksheet, or write it in your notebook, along with the questions.
- This lesson also contains the answers to the practice worksheet shared in the e-lesson dated 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
- You will also find a PDF attachment on 'Articles' along with this e-lesson. Kindly refer to that handout whenever in doubt regarding Articles.
- The exercises in the PDF attachment must be done in the English notebook.

**ARTICLES**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The articles are the words "a," "an," and "the." They define whether something is specific or unspecific. The meaning of the message is affected if the articles are not used properly.



There are **two** types of articles:

(1) **The Definite Article (The)** - "The" is called the definite article. It defines its noun as something specific (something previously mentioned or known, something unique, something being identified by the speaker).

*Examples:*

- I fell over the chair again.  
(The chair is specific. It is known to the audience.)
- I loved the apple pie after the meal.  
(In this example, the audience knows which apple pie is being praised, e.g., the one at last night's dinner.)

(2) **The Indefinite Article (A, An)** - "A" and "an" are called the indefinite articles. They define their noun as something unspecific (something mentioned for the first time).

*Examples:*

- This is **a** lake.  
(This is a previously unspecified lake.)
- Can you pass me a chair?  
(This means an unspecific chair, i.e., any chair.)

## II. EXPLANATION

### Usage of Definite Article (THE)

- The article '**the**' is used after you have already mentioned someone/something or if the context tells you which object or person you are talking about.

*For example -*

- "I have found a golf course in Pitampura. The golf course is quite widespread."

Here in the first sentence, the golf course is being mentioned for the first time. It's context is not set before, it's brand new information. But in the sentence that follows, the golf course has already been mentioned once. The context for the noun is set and therefore, the user is familiar with the noun.

3. 'The' is used before nouns that are unique:

*Examples:*

*the sun, the moon, the Arabian sea, the Bermuda triangle, the Eiffel tower, the Himalayas and so on.*

4. 'The' is used with superlative adjectives.

*Examples:*

- My mother cooks *the* best cookies in the world.
- We forgot the most interesting point.

5. 'The' is used before adjectives to talk about groups of people.

*Examples:*

- We must look after *the* elderly.

- The rich don't know how *the* poor live.

6. 'The' is used with Proper nouns: Names of countries, some titles, some organisations, some buildings, newspapers, works of art, specific family names, mountains, rivers, seas, groups of islands, and deserts.

Examples:

- *The* Indian ocean, *the* Bay of Bengal, *the* Netherlands, *the* Caspian, *the* United States of America, *the* Taj Mahal, *the* Times of India, *the* Suez Canal, *the* Guptas.

7. 'the' is used with nationalities

Examples:

- *The* British ruled India for 200 years.
- "*The* Belgian chocolate is impossible to resist."

Even if nationality is in the plural. Like:

- "*The* Indians aced in chess at the championship."
- "*The* Americans."

## USAGE OF INDEFINITE ARTICLES (A / AN)

Indefinite articles are used when we are referring to an unspecified thing or quantity. We use them when we don't know which thing we are talking about.

- Use '**a**' when the indefinite article comes before a word beginning with a consonant sound: a book, a toy, a house.
- Use '**an**' when the indefinite article comes before a word beginning with a vowel sound: an operation, an idea, an apple.

**NOTE:** Always trust the sound, not the letter when using a or an. Remember, it's about pronunciation.

*Example:*

- ❖ a hour: Incorrect
- ❖ an hour: Correct

- Use a/an when you mention something or someone for the first time.

*Examples:*

- ❖ I saw a rainbow yesterday.
- ❖ I consulted an optician yesterday.

- Use a/an to show someone or something is one of a group.

*Example:*

- ❖ He is an optician in London.

- Use a/an when you say what someone's job is.

*Examples:*

- ❖ He is a doctor.
- ❖ My mother is a nurse.
- ❖ She is an engineer.

- **Indefinite Articles with Uncountable Nouns**

Uncountable nouns are nouns that are either difficult or impossible to count. Uncountable nouns include things that are too large or numerous to count (e.g., equipment, sand, wood). Because these things can't be counted, you should never use **a** or **an** with them.

- The indefinite article is only for singular nouns.
- Uncountable nouns can be modified by using *some*.

*Examples:*

- ❖ Please give me a/an water. - Incorrect

Water is an uncountable noun and should not be used with the indefinite article.

- ❖ Please give me *some* water. - Correct

However, if you describe the water in terms of countable units (like bottles), you can use the indefinite article.

*Examples:*

- ❖ Please give me **a** bottle of water.
- ❖ Please give me **an** ice cube.
- Do not use a/an with plural nouns:

*Example-*

- ❖ I ate a/an cherries yesterday – Incorrect
- ❖ I ate cherries yesterday – Correct

### **III. SUMMARY**

- Articles (A/An/The) are the words that describe a noun as specific/not specific.
- There are two types of articles in English – The definite article – ‘The’ and the indefinite articles – ‘A’ and ‘An’
- The definite article ‘the’ is used before specific objects and things that are unique.
- Indefinite Articles are used when we study about something for the first time, or singular objects usually.
- Refer to the tables given below for a clearer understanding.

# A - AN

## The difference between A and AN

**A** and **AN** have the same meaning. **A** and **AN** are indefinite articles. The difference depends on the sound at the beginning of the next word.

When the next word starts with a  
**CONSONANT** SOUND

**A**

When the next word starts with a  
**VOWEL** SOUND

**AN**

a book   a frog   an apple   an orange  
a car   a lemon   an egg   an umbrella  
a dog   a truck   an insect   an actor

**BE CAREFUL!** The **SOUND** of the letter is important

a house   BUT   an hour

The **H** at the beginning of **hour** is **silent**.

an uncle   BUT   a university

The **U** at the beginning of **university** sounds like **YOU**.

This rule applies to all words after **A** or **AN** (including adjectives, adverbs...)

a cold dayan easy lessona very crazy personan interesting class

# INDEFINITE ARTICLE (a/an)

USE	EXAMPLE	NOTES
To refer to something for the first time	<i>An elephant</i> and <i>a mouse</i> fell in love. Would you like <i>a drink</i> ? I've finally got <i>a good job</i> .	Yesterday I met <b>a boy</b> near my house. <b>The boy</b> wanted to communicate with me.
meaning 'one', referring to a single object or person:	I'd like <i>an orange</i> and two lemons please.	Notice also that we usually say <b><i>a hundred, a thousand, a million.</i></b> <b>NOTE:</b> that we use 'one' to add emphasis or to contrast with other numbers: I don't know <b>one person</b> who likes eating elephant meat. We've got <b>six computers</b> but only <b>one printer</b> .
with names of jobs:	John is <i>a doctor</i> . Mary is training to be <i>an engineer</i> . He wants to be <i>a dancer</i> .	
with nationalities and religions:	John is <i>an Englishman</i> . Kate is <i>a Catholic</i> .	<b>John is British.</b>

## IV. FURTHER REFERENCE

Refer to the YouTube link for a clearer understanding of the topic –

Rules for using Articles - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zZau\\_dttRY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zZau_dttRY)

Uses of the article 'The' - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmV2td0olqE>

## V. ASSIGNMENT

(To be attempted in the English fair notebook)



**★ Put 'a' or 'an' in each blank.**

1 \_\_\_\_\_ octopus

10 \_\_\_\_\_ donkey



2 \_\_\_\_\_ map



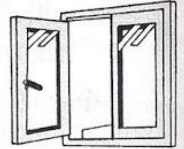
11 \_\_\_\_\_ cousin

3 \_\_\_\_\_ wire

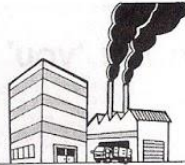
12 \_\_\_\_\_ onion

4 \_\_\_\_\_ honour

13 \_\_\_\_\_ window



5 \_\_\_\_\_ factory



14 \_\_\_\_\_ envelope

6 \_\_\_\_\_ earthworm

15 \_\_\_\_\_ university



7 \_\_\_\_\_ idiom



16 \_\_\_\_\_ hare

8 \_\_\_\_\_ printer



17 \_\_\_\_\_ ambulance

9 \_\_\_\_\_ shelf

18 \_\_\_\_\_ pilot



**★ Circle the correct answers.**

1  A  The moon is shining brightly tonight.

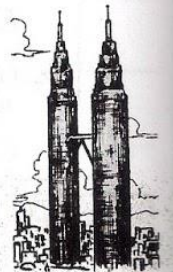
2 Choong Fai have  a  the reason for being absent from school.

3 The English test will end in  a  an hour.

4 Samuel has to cross  a  an river on the way to school.

5 Kuala Lumpur is  a  the capital of Malaysia.

6  A  An Eskimo lives in an igloo.



7 Do you know  a  the man who is wearing  a  the hat?

8 Do you have  a  an axe and  a  an saw?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Articles: a, an or the?

*Complete the sentences using a, an or the.*

1. Picasso was \_\_\_\_\_ artist.
2. He is \_\_\_\_\_ honest man.
3. I study at \_\_\_\_\_ small university in London.
4. We used to live in \_\_\_\_\_ city centre.
5. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ teacher?
6. It takes me \_\_\_\_\_ hour to get to work.
7. My cousin is \_\_\_\_\_ surgeon.
8. It looks like it's going to rain. Do you have \_\_\_\_\_ umbrella?
9. I have \_\_\_\_\_ one year old daughter.
10. Singer Justin Bieber comes from \_\_\_\_\_ ordinary family.
11. These days Angelina Jolie enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ life of \_\_\_\_\_ Hollywood film star.
12. My brother lives in \_\_\_\_\_ apartment in \_\_\_\_\_ city centre.
13. School children in \_\_\_\_\_ UK have to wear \_\_\_\_\_ uniform.
14. Is there \_\_\_\_\_ petrol station near here?
15. It's very near here. Go straight on and it's on \_\_\_\_\_ left.
16. Is France \_\_\_\_\_ European country?
17. I've got \_\_\_\_\_ spare ticket for tonight's concert. Do you want to come?
18. Simon thought he heard burglars so he rushed downstairs and phoned \_\_\_\_\_ police.
19. Do you want to go to \_\_\_\_\_ cinema tonight?
20. I am reading \_\_\_\_\_ really good book.



## **PART II - FUN WITH WRITING!**

(To be done in the English fair notebook)

**Formal Letter Writing** – Write a letter to the medical fraternity (All the doctors, nurses and healthcare workers) thanking them for the selfless care that they are showing in treating the patients at the risk of their own lives.

[NOTE- It will be a formal letter, the introductory format of which is shared below with you]

325-B

Pitampura

New Delhi

9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The Medical Fraternity

India

Subject-

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### **Answers to the exercise in the e-lesson shared on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (Punctuation)**

- I. Dr. Hussain works at the city hospital on Dudley road.
- II. I like playing with my friends – Sandy, Sunny and Sameer.
- III. We went through the smoky mountains near Shimla on our way to Leh.
- IV. My favourite soap is Pears and my favourite toothpaste is Pepsodent.
- V. I'm a Catholic, and that's why I go to St. Joseph's School.
- VI. My friend Priya speaks German, and she is teaching me some words.
- VII. He was honest, sincere and hard working.
- VIII. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians live together in India.
- IX. Long ago in a town in Switzerland, there lived a famous man called William.
- X. Akbar, the greatest of the Mughal emperors, ruled wisely.

- XI. Tanya said to Ila, "Rahul is a nice guy."
- XII. My name is Carly Smith and I support Liverpool F.C.
- XIII. Does David Cameron work for Queen Elizabeth?
- XIV. I hope the Christmas holidays come soon.
- XV. Who was the first person to land on the moon?
- XVI. Don't shout at me!
- XVII. When can I take your dog, Bailey, for a walk?
- XVIII. My grandma Watson lived in Scotland until she was 80.
- XIX. My auntie Eleanor worked for a paint company in London.
- XX. London is the capital city of England, in the United Kingdom.

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BBPS, PITAMP