

ARTICLE

Definition:

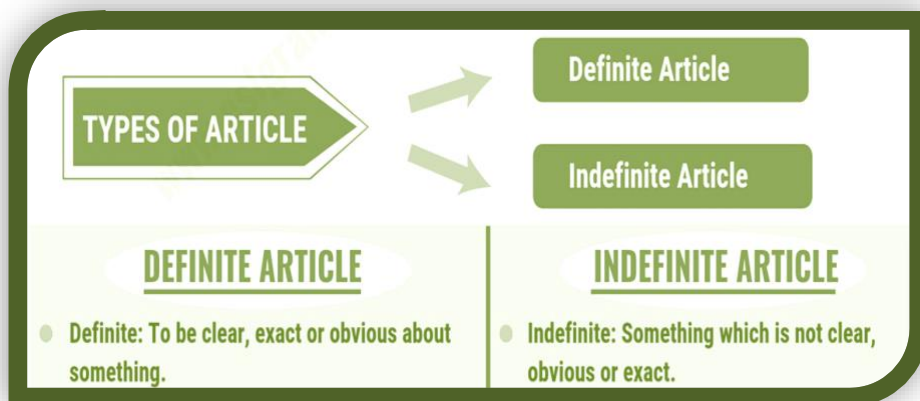
Articles are words that define a noun as specific or unspecific. The words **a**, **an** and **the** are usually called articles.



Types of articles:

There are two types of articles:

- i) **Definite Article** : The
- ii) **Indefinite Article**: A, An



- If we wish to particularise the noun, we use the definite article.
- If we wish to generalise the noun, we use the indefinite article.

USE OF INDEFINITEARTICLES-A, AN

- “A” is used before a word beginning with a consonant sound.
- “An” is used before a word beginning with vowel (a, e, i, o, u) sound.



- “A” and “an” are used before singular countable nouns.
- We cannot use “a” and “an” before plural nouns as they mean one or single thing, person, object etc.

EXAMPLES	
A	AN
A student	An inkpot
A horse	An egg
A woman	An ice-cream
A tree	An umbrella
A wooden table	An orange
A singer	An apple

SPECIAL RULES

- If the first letter of a word is consonant and its first sound is vowel, then we use “An” before it.

Example:

An honest man, An M.L.A., An heir, An N.C.C. boy, An hour

- If the first letter of a word is vowel and its first sound is consonant, then we use “A” before it.

Example:

A European, A university, A uniform, A utensil, A one-way ticket, A one-rupee note

USE OF DEFINITE ARTICLE -THE

- We use “The” to indicate a particular person or thing.

Examples:

The book is out of print.

The mangoes are very sweet.

- We use “a” or “an” when we refer to a noun for the first time. We use “the” when we refer to that noun the second time.

Example:

There is a tree in the garden. The tree is an Oak.

- We use “The” before a name of a thing which only one exists in nature.

Examples:

The sun shines in the sky.

The earth moves round the sun.



- As general rule a Proper Noun should not have any article before it. But the following take “The” before them as exceptions.
- **Names of holy books:** The Bible, The Gita
 - **Names of newspapers:** The Statesman, The Anandabazar
 - **Names of ships:** The Titanic, The M.V.Akbar
 - **Names of trains:** The Bombay Mail, The Rajdhani Express
 - **Names of famous buildings:** The Tajmahal, The Victoria Memorial Hall
 - **Names of rivers:** The Ganga, The Jamuna
 - **Names of seas:** The Arabian Sea, The Red Sea
 - **Names of Oceans:** The Pacific Ocean, The Atlantic Ocean
 - **Names of Mountain Ranges:** The Himalayas, The Alps

- **Names of Countries which are collectively formed:** The U.S.A., The U.K.
- We use “The” before a singular noun to represent a whole class. It is called ***Generalising The***.
Examples:
The cow is a useful animal.
The dog is a faithful animal.
- “The” is used before a noun denoting nation or race.
Examples:
The English are industrious.
The Bengaleess are intelligent.



- “The” is used before the adjectives in superlative degree and the words in the superlative sense.
Examples:
John is the best boy in the class.
Romila is the most beautiful girl.
- We use “The” before ordinal numbers.
Examples:
Who is the first boy of the class?
The 23rd January is a red letter day.

USING NO ARTICLES

- We can't use "the" with abstract nouns used in a general way.

Examples:

Honesty is the best policy.

Truthfulness is always appreciated.

- "The" is not used before the names of people and places.

Examples:

Romit is my best friend.

India is a big country.

- We don't use "The" before uncountable nouns.

Examples:

Rice is the staple food of Bengalees.

I don't like to drink **milk**.



- "The" is not used before plural countable nouns that refer to the entire class.

Examples:

Boys are enjoying in the rain.

Children are "fond" of sweets.

- "The" is not placed before the names of single mountains, single islands, and lakes.

Examples:

Mount Everest is the highest mountain peak in the world.

Mount Abu is situated in Rajasthan.

- We can't use article before the names of relations, like father, mother, aunt and uncle.

Examples:

My **mother** has gone to office.

My **brother** is a good painter.

- Article is not used before common nouns when they are used in pairs.

Examples:

Both **brother and sister** are waiting outside.

Both **husband and wife** are working together.

- We don't use articles before the names of games, meals, seasons and festivals.

Examples:

Winter is the best time for picnic.

We like to play **football**.

We have **dinner** at usual time.

I celebrate **Christmas** with my family.

- The articles are generally not used before material nouns.

Examples:

Gold is a precious metal.

Cotton grows in India.