

ARTICLES

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USES OF INDEFINITE ARTICLE 'AN'

1. 'An' is used before singular countable nouns (common nouns) starting with vowels.

Example:

He is an artist.

You must eat an apple a day.

2. 'An' is used before words beginning with silent 'h'.

Example:

She is an honest girl.

He is an honor to his family.

3. 'An' is used before a word starting with a consonant but pronouncing a vowel.

Words starting with F, H, L, M, N, S, X.

Example:

An FIR

An LLB

An NDA aspirant

An x-ray report

An HOD

An MLA

An SP

USES OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE 'THE'

1. 'The' is used before proper nouns.

Example:

The Indian Ocean

The Sun

The Earth

The Times of India

2. When we speak of a common noun already mentioned once.

Example:

There is a book on my table. The book is yours.

This topic is a little confusing. Let us study the topic carefully.

3. Before superlative and comparative degrees.

Example:

He is the best player of our team.

The higher you go, the cooler you feel.

4. Before musical instruments.

Example:

He knows how to play the guitar.

She has interest in playing the piano.

5. Before proper noun/name of someone in order to draw a comparison.

Example:

Kalidas is the Shakespeare of India.

Rohan is the Sachin Tendulkar of our college cricket team.

6. Before physical positions.

Example:

The delivery man left the packet in
the front of the door.

The most beautiful sight is from the
top of the mountain.

7. Before the adjectives 'same & whole'.

Example:

This is the same book that I was looking for.

The whole group bunked the class.

8. After the adjectives 'both & all' if used with a plural noun.

Example:

All water is spilled.

Both the matches were won by our team.

9. Before the dates.

Example:

The 10th of this month.

The 25th of December.



10. Before ordinals.

Example:

The tenth chapter of this book is very easy.

She secured the second position.

11. Before dynasties, wars, revolutions, centuries and empires.

Example:

The Gupta Dynasty

The French revolution

The vedic ages

The Mauryan empire

The contemporary world

The World War

12. Before communities and sections.

Example:

The rich should help the poor.

The Marathas are hard working.

13. Before nationality.

Example:

Hindi is the mother tongue of the Indians.

French is spoken by the French.

14. For points of compass.

Example:

The East

The North

The North-east

West etc.

The West

The South

The South

15. With the union of countries.

Example:

The United States of America

The United Kingdom

The Russian Federation



16. With the group of islands.

Examples:

The Philippines

The Bahamas



17. Before the names of rivers, seas and oceans.

Example:

The Ganges

The Nile

The Mediterranean sea

The Pacific Ocean

18. With waterfalls & group of mountains/mountain ranges.

Example:

The Niagara falls

The Victoria falls

The Himalayas

The Rocky Mountains



19. With deserts and continents.

Example:

The Thar desert

The Sahara desert

The Africa

The Europe

The North America



20. With gulfs.

Examples:

The Gulf stream
The Persian gulf



WHEN TO AVOID ARTICLES?



1.No article before abstract nouns.

Example:

Honesty is the best policy.

He has a lot of sympathy for the poor.

2. Before metals.

Example.

Gold is a precious metal.

Iron is used for many purposes.

3. No article before material nouns.

Example:

Water is used to cook food.

Cotton is used to make clothes.

4. No article with food grains.

Example:

Rice is grown in India.

Wheat is the main staple of north
Indians.

5. No article before languages.

Example:

Sanskrit is a difficult language.

Learning French is not easy.

6. We cannot use the indefinite article or numbers with uncountable nouns.

Example

Water (NOT a water) (NOT two waters)

Weather (NOT a weather) (NOT two weathers)

He gave me advice.

He passed on information to others.

7. No article before hobbies, sports and profession.

Example:

Dancing is her hobby.

Teaching is my profession.

Cricket is played worldwide.

8. No article before the name of the body parts.

Example:

Heart pumps blood throughout the body.

Liver is the largest organ of human body.

9. No article before meals and names of people until it is a special meal or a comparison drawn.

10. Articles are not used with the names of illnesses or diseases.

Example:

Dr. Smith visits schools and universities to educate students on cancer.

Note: But the measles
the mumps
the rickets
the plague
the flu

11. No article is used before the name of modes of transportation.

Example:

Travelling by bus is quite uncomfortable.

They are going to Delhi by air.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with correct articles a, an & the where necessary.

1. Are you coming to ____ party next Sunday? the
2. I bought ____ new TV set yesterday. a
3. I think ____ man over there is very ill. the
4. I watched ____ video you had sent me. the
5. She was wearing ____ ugly dress. an

6. I am crazy about reading _ history books. X

7. She is ____ nice girl. a

8. Do you want to go to ____ restaurant where we first met? the

9. He is ____ engineer. an

10. He thinks that ____ kindness will save everyone.

X

USE THE ARTICLES A, AN & THE.

India is one of (i)___ big countries in (ii)___ world. If (iii)___ man takes (iv)___ quickest train, he will take nearly (v)___ week to go from one end of India to the other. One who leaves Ramnad in (vi)___ south on (vii)___ first day of (viii)___ month will perhaps get to Srinagar in (ix)___ north only about (x)___ sixth of (xi)___ same month.

(i) the

(ii) the

(iii) a

(iv) the

(v) a

(vi) the

(vii) the

(viii) a

(ix) the

(x) the

(xi) the