

Articles**THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE: A/AN**

We use the indefinite article when we talk about something in general.

a + consonant

an + vowel (a, e, i, o, u)

e.g. a book, a pen, a cat – an apple, an igloo, an octopus, an egg, an umbrella

Remember that

1.- The letter h may be pronounced or not.

E.g. a horse BUT an hour

2.- The letter u may be pronounced either /ju/ or /ʌ/.

e.g. a unit BUT an umbrella

- a / an + singular nouns
-I have a dog.
- a / an + occupations/ jobs
-He is a teacher.
- a / an + measurement expressions
-I have English lessons twice a week.

3.- We use the indefinite article before jobs, occupations, nationalities, religions and the name of the days.

I am a housewife

She is a journalist

Kate is a Catholic

I was born on a Thursday

Be careful!! Watch out!!

We **DO NOT** use the indefinite article:

- With plural nouns : - books
- With Uncountable nouns: e.g. some sugar, some water
- Before adjectives when they are not followed by a noun.
e.g. She is old.
but She is an old woman.

THE DEFINITE ARTICLE: THE

We use the definite article when we talk about something in particular, something that has been mentioned earlier or something unique

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e.g. the sun, the moon, the earth, the stars, the sky, the sea

We also use the definite article:

1.- With the names of mountain ranges, oceans, seas, rivers and deserts,

E.g. The Alps, the Himalayas, the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea , the Amazon, the Nile, the Thames, the Sahara Desert.

2.- With groups of islands, states, countries.

E.g. the Canary Islands, The United States of America, the United Kingdom.

3.- With musical instruments

E.g. I can play the guitar/ violin/ piano, flute etc.

4.- With superlatives

E.g. The best, The worst, The smallest, The most beautiful.

Be careful!! Watch out!!

We **DO NOT** use the definite article (**Zero article**):

1.- Before Proper nouns (Mary, Spain)

2.-With the names of meals, school subjects, languages, games or sports, titles+ names with the names of individual mountains, lakes and islands:

- Mount McKinley is the highest mountain in Alaska.
- She lives near Lake Windermere.
- Have you visited Long Island?
- To have breakfast, lunch, dinner.
- I like Math(s), Art, English etc.
- I play football, volleyball, tennis, badminton, chess, etc.

3.- With plural nouns when we refer to something in general.

- I like flowers
- Lions are very big animals.

4.- After the possessive adjectives , the possessive case and the determiners: this – these, that – those.

- My book, your pen etc.
- Mary's bag.
- This house etc

5.-Before the names of streets, squares, circus.

- Baker Street
- Trafalgar Square
- Picadilly Circus

6.- Before the words:

church, school, prison, hospital university
Whenever you go there as a believer, student, patient, prisoner, etc.