



The use of articles in English

A/AN/THE



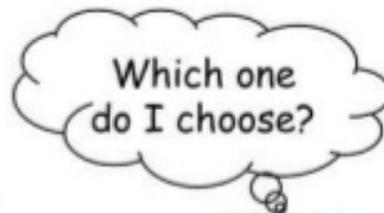
a *the*
ARTICLES
an

✓ What is an article?

- ▶ Basically, **articles** are either *definite* or *indefinite*. They combine to a noun to indicate the type of reference being made by the noun.
- ▶ The **definite** article is **the**.
- ▶ The **indefinite** article is **a / an**.

Indefinite Article

a
or
an?





✓ Use a/an when it's the first time something is mentioned

- ▶ I met  smart doctor.
- ▶ I work in  factory in New York.
- ▶ I borrowed  pencil from her.
- ▶ I saw  movie



✓ With jobs

- ▶ Luz's mother is a doctor.
- ▶ Edwin is a pilot.
- ▶ Marcela is a dancer.
- ▶ Orlando is a butcher.
- ▶ Lira is a fashion designer.
- ▶ Jesus is a shark tank cleaner.
- ▶ Claudia is a makeup artist.



✓ The indefinite article **a** is used before a consonant sound.

- ▶ **a** dog.
- ▶ **a** pilot.
- ▶ **a** union.
- ▶ **a** teacher.
- ▶ **a** university.

✓ The indefinite article **an** is used before a vowel sound

- ▶ **an** engineer.
- ▶ **an** elephant.
- ▶ **an** athlete.
- ▶ **an** orange.
- ▶ **an** igloo.

The definite article

THE

✓ When we mention something for the first time we use **a** or **an**, the next time we repeat that object we use the definite article **the**.

- ▶ I live in **a** house. **The** house is quite old and has four bedrooms.
- ▶ I ate in **a** Chinese restaurant. **The** restaurant was very good.
- ▶ I bought **a** car. **The** car is red.
- ▶ She went to **a** farm. **The** farm was really big according to her.

✓ When the subject is unique (there's only one)

- ▶ **The** sun rose at 6:17 this morning.
- ▶ You can go anywhere in **the** world.
- ▶ Clouds drift across **the** sky.
- ▶ **The** president will be speaking on TV tonight.
- ▶ **The** CEO of Total is coming to our meeting.
- ▶ **The** moon is so brilliant today.



✓ With superlatives

- ▶ This is **the highest building** in New York.
- ▶ She read **the best chapter** of the book.
- ▶ You are **the tallest person** in our class.
- ▶ This is **the worst moment** to travel.
- ▶ We have **the most beautiful** beaches.

✓ with countries that have plural names,
kingdom or republics.

- ▶ I have never been to **the Netherlands**.
- ▶ Do you know anyone who lives in **the Philippines**?
- ▶ She really loves **the united states**.
- ▶ She went last year to **the united kingdom**.
- ▶ I'd love to visit **the Czech republic**.



With the other
countries do
not use "the"

✓ With rivers, seas, oceans, deserts.

- ▶ **The** Magdalena river.
- ▶ **The** Sahara desert.
- ▶ **The** pacific ocean.
- ▶ **The** black sea.



Never use
"the" with
lakes.



✓ To describe where in a country or city

- ▶ You have to visit **the** south of France.
- ▶ They live in **the** north of the city.
- ▶ They will go to **the** west of the states.

Zero article (when no article is needed)

Zero Article



✓ When making generalizations with plural or uncountable nouns

- ▶ Music is great to have fun.
- ▶ Shoes are more expensive than sandals.
- ▶ Butter is bad for our health.
- ▶ Women are more intelligent than men.
- ▶ Men are stronger than women.