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Study Material**

ARTICLES

Articles

Article is a kind of adjective that is used before a Noun to make it specific or non-specific.

There are two types of Articles.

- (i) Definite Article
- (ii) Indefinite Article

Definite Article: 'The' is called the Definite Article because it points out to a definite person, a place or a thing.

Indefinite Article: 'A' or 'An' is called Indefinite Article because it points out to an indefinite person, a place or a thing.

Article 'A' is used

1. 'A' is used before the words beginning with consonants and having the sound of consonants.

e.g. a cat, a bus, a book, etc.

2. Before the words beginning with vowels and having the sound of 'Y' as in 'Yes' and as in 'one'.

e.g. A university, a European lady, a one-rupee note, a one-eyed person, a Station House Officer, a Member of Legislative Assembly, etc.

Article 'An' is used

1. Before the word beginning with vowel and having the sound of vowel.

e.g. An umbrella, an egg, an apple, an orange, an officer, an honest boy, an hour, an S.H.O., an M.L.A., an M.P. etc.

2. Before the words beginning with consonants but having the sound of vowel.

e.g. an honest boy, an hour, etc.

IPs.

- (a) We always put 'A' before a Noun having the sound of consonant. It does not matter whether it (Noun) starts with consonant or vowel.
- (b) We always put 'An' before a Noun having the sound of vowel. It does not matter whether it (Noun) starts with a consonant or a vowel.

Some other examples of 'a/an':

An MP, A Member of Parliament, An FO, A forest officer, An SHO, A Station House Office, An orange, A one-eyed man, A one-rupee note, A year, A useful book, A unique thing, A union, A unit, A university, A European, An eagle, A ewe, A historical monument, An honorarium, An heir, An honourable person, An honour, An hour, etc.

The Indefinite Articles (A/An) are used to denote the following:

1. I bought a dozen mangoes. (numerical sense)
2. Birds of a feather flock together. (in the sense of the same)
3. An old man has seven daughters. (in the sense of a certain)
4. I pay my maid Rs. 200 a week. (in the sense of every)
5. I have a high regard for my neighbours. (In the sense of some)
6. The culprit did not speak a word in self defence. (in the sense of any or nothing)
7. There is not a man here who does not curse her. (in the sense of single)
8. A child cries when he is hungry. (representing the whole class)
9. A Miss Arora rang an hour ago. (before a stranger)
10. What a pretty girl! (before exclamatory Singular Countable Noun)
11. I have a severe pain in my back. (before certain phrases)
12. This is a most fantastic idea. (in the sense of 'very' or 'very much')
13. He is a Hitler. (To show a feature)

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate 'a/an'.

1. He is _ M.L.A. of our area.
2. Amar is _ honest boy.
3. Who is _ heir to your will?
4. He lodged _ FIR yesterday against you.



5. We have been waiting for you for _ hour.
6. She is _ SDO.
7. One of my friends is _ LLB.
8. I have _ x-ray machine.
9. He wants to become _ IAS officer.
10. He is _ union leader.
11. She went to market to purchase _ umbrella.
12. There only _ one-rupee note in my pocket.
13. He is _ professor in _ University.
14. I have _ ewe.
15. They met _ European lady yesterday.

Article 'The' is used

1. Before a person, a place or a thing already mentioned or referred to.

e.g. There lived a farmer and a potter in a house in a village. They were very good friends. Once, **the farmer** left **the house** in search of a job and **the village** was attacked by some dacoits. When **the farmer** returned, he was stunned to see **the house** empty and **the potter** was killed by **the dacoits**.

2. Before Common Noun to represent the whole class.

e.g. (i) **The dog** is a faithful animal.
(ii) **The rose** is a beautiful flower.

3. Before a noun which is unique.

e.g. The sun, the moon, the earth, the sky, the wind, the stars, etc.

4. Before Superlative Degree.

e.g. (i) Mr. Lal is **the best** teacher in our school.
(ii) Vimla is **the cleverest** student of the class.
(iii) She is **the most intelligent** girl of the class.

5. Before the names of rivers, trains, ships, seas, oceans, canals, lakes, mountains, islands, dams, deserts, etc.

e.g. The Ganges, the Rajdhani Express, the Titanic, the Arabian sea, the Indian ocean, etc.

Note: Article 'the' is not used before single mountain or island.

e.g. Mount Everest, Mt. Abu, Sri Lanka, etc.

6. Before the names of public institutions, historical places, etc.

e.g. (i) The Delhi Public Library,
(ii) The Golden Temple,
(iii) The Red Fort, etc.

7. Before the names of the religions.

e.g. The Hindu, the Muslims, the Sikhs, the Christians, etc.

Note: The initial letter of a Proper Noun is always capital and a religion is a Proper Noun.

8. Before the names of holy books, magazines, newspapers, etc.

e.g. The Ramayana, the Quran, the India Today, the Times of India, etc.

9. Before an adjective to represent the whole class.

e.g. (i) **The rich** must help **the poor**. (Correct)
(ii) **The rich men** must help **the poor men**. (Incorrect)

10. Before the names of Municipalities, Government Departments/Ministries.

e.g. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi, The Ministry of Health, etc.

11. Before the words indicate directions when preposition is preceded by them.

e.g. (i) In **the east**, In **the west**, In **the north**, In **the south**. (With Preposition)
(ii) East or west India is the best. (Without Preposition)

12. Before the words which express the unit.

e.g. Bananas are sold by **the dozens**.
By the litre, by the metre, by the kilogram, etc.

13. Before ranks (which are in superlative sense).

e.g. The President, the Prime Minister, the King, the Principal, etc.

14. Before 'whole' and 'same' and after 'all' and 'both'.

- e.g. (i) **The whole** class was making a noise.
(ii) This is **the same** boy who met me yesterday.
(iii) **All the** boys were playing in the play ground.
(iv) **Both the** girls were absent in the class yesterday.

15. Before some exceptional places.

e.g. The Punjab, The Deccan, The USA, the USSR, etc.

16. Before the Comparative Degree when we emphasize over the idea.

- e.g. (i) **The higher** we go, **the cooler** it is.
(ii) **The more** we get, **the more** we desire.

17. Before the antecedent to make someone/something definite.

- e.g. (i) I know **the man** whom you are waiting for.
(ii) Where is **the pen** that I gave you day before yesterday?

18. Before the Ordinal Numbers.

- e.g. (i) He got birth on **the 3rd** July, 1996.
(ii) **The first** girl in **the second** row is my cousin.

19. Before any Political Party.

e.g. The Aap, the Congress, the BJP, etc.

20. To make surnames plural.

e.g. **The Sharmas**, **the Vermas**, **the Khans**, etc.

21. Before the Adjective if it is followed by a Noun.

e.g. Akbar **the** great, Ashoka **the** great, Napoleon **the** warrior, etc.

22. Before historical incidents.

e.g. **The** battle of Panipat, **the** mutiny of 1857, etc.

23. Before some parts of days if last, next, every, etc. are not preceded by them.

e.g. In **the** evening, in **the** morning, in **the** afternoon.
I got up very late **last** morning.

24. Before Comparative Degree when 'than' is not preceded by them. We can say in the sense of selection.

- e.g. (i) She is **the wiser** of **the** two.
(ii) Ram is **the better** of **the** two brothers.

25. Before musical instrument.

- e.g. (i) When Ram plays on **the flute**, he makes everyone spellbound.
(ii) He is learning playing on **the guitar**.

26. Before the parts of body when Possessive Pronoun is not given before it.

- e.g. (i) He got injury in **the right leg**.
(ii) Rama writes with **the left hand**.
(iii) He applies several creams on **his face**.

27. Before the names of planets.

e.g. The Mercury, the Earth, the Venus, the Mars, etc.

OMISSION OF ARTICLES

1. Before a Common Noun used in widest sense.

e.g. Man is mortal.
Soul is immortal.

2. Before a Material Noun.

e.g. **Iron** is a useful metal.
Gold is a precious metal.
But we can say, **the iron** of Modi Nagar is famous.
The gold of South Africa is pure and famous.

3. Before eatable and drinkable things.

e.g. We should not go out of home without taking **breakfast**.



But we can say, **the breakfast** I took with you was very delicious.

4. Before a Proper Noun.

e.g. **Shakespeare** is a playwright.

Amitabh Bachchan is an actor.

But when we use Proper Noun as a Common Noun, we can say,

Amar is **the Shakespeare** of our class.

Ram is **the Amitabh Bachchan** of our school.

5. Before Abstract Noun.

e.g. (i) **Honesty** is the best policy.

(ii) **Beauty** needs no ornaments.

(iii) **Mankind** should love nature.

But we can say, I appreciate **the honesty** of my students.

The beauty of the Taj Mahal beggars description.

6. Before hospital, school, college, church, temple, mosque, library, office etc. When a person visits these places for his primary purpose.

e.g. (i) My daughter had gone to school.

(ii) John goes to Church on every Sunday.

(iii) My father has gone to **the school**.

(iv) My house is next to a mosque.

• Here, father has not gone to school for primary purpose.

7. Before the names of and diseases.

e.g. (i) He is suffering from fever.

8. Before the names of games, days, months, subjects, and hobbies.

e.g. (i) I play **Cricket**.

(ii) John goes to Church on **Sunday**

(iii) **January** is the coldest month of summer.

(iv) **Mathematics** is a very difficult subject.

(v) I like **gardening**.

9. Before the names of seasons, etc.

e.g. (i) Summer is the hottest season.

10. Before any language.

e.g. English is the language of the English.

Hindi, English, Urdu, French, etc.

11. Before some phrases.

e.g. Make haste, by name, at home in, by train, to bring to book, to lose heart, to take to heart, in danger, by mistake, at last, set on fire, in hand, to catch fire, last but not least, to give ear, to set foot, etc.

(i) My mother is **at home in** domestic work.

(ii) Don't **make haste**, there plenty of time.

12. Generally before Singular Uncountable Nouns 'a/an' is not used.

e.g. Advice, furniture, music, knowledge, evidence, breakage, money, jewellery, hair, business, weather, progress, wastage, accommodation, news, bread, information, permission, work, traffic, baggage, postage, luggage, scenery, equipment, mischief, wine, poetry, stationery, slice of, etc.

(i) I have **many works** to do. (Incorrect)

(ii) I have **much work** to do. (Correct)

Note: To make above given Nouns plural use 'kind of, sort of, type of, variety of, piece of, item of, article of, etc' before it.

e.g. (i) He gave me **a piece of advice**.

(ii) I bought two **articles of furniture**.

13. Before God, Hell, Heaven, etc.

e.g. (i) Go to **hell**!

(ii) He prays to **God** daily.

14. After some Transitive Verbs like; select, elect, make, appoint, etc.

e.g. The teacher elected Amar **the monitor** of the class today. (Incorrect)

The teacher elected Amar **monitor** of the class today. (Correct)

Some other uses of Articles

1. If a noun is common and countable 'the' is used before it.

- e.g. (i) He is taking bath in **the river**.
(ii) **The boys** are playing in the park.

Note: If any Common Countable Noun is used in the wider sense, no article is used before it.

e.g. **Boys** are often mischievous whereas **girls** are often innocent.

2. Sometimes when a plural noun is used as an object, article is not used before it.

- e.g. (i) He flies **kites** everyday.
(ii) They all are **teachers**.

3. If any profession (teacher, doctor, engineer, peon, watchman, beggar, etc.) whether singular or plural is used as a Subject, 'the' is used before it.

- e.g. (i) **The peon** rings the bell on time.
(ii) **The teachers** are teaching in the class.

4. If the above mentioned profession in singular form is used as an Object, 'a/an' is used before it.

e.g. His elder brother is **an** engineer while his younger sister is **a** doctor.

5. If a Singular Countable Noun is used as an Object, 'a/an' is used before it.

- e.g. (i) She has toy. (Incorrect)
(ii) She has **a** toy. (Correct)

6. If there is an Adjective before a Noun, 'a/an' is used before the Adjective not before the Noun.

- e.g. (i) The Taj Mahal is **a beautiful** monument.
(ii) She has **a nice** doll.

7. If there is an Adverb before an Adjective, 'a/an' is used before the Adverb not before the Adjective.

e.g. He has **a very good** friend in his street.

8. When Verb is used as a Noun, 'a/an' is used before it.

- e.g. (i) I had **a long walk** in the morning today.
(ii) He goes for **a morning walk** daily.
(iii) I want to **have a drink**.
(iv) She has gone **for a ride**.

9. With some phrases 'a/an' is used.

Tell a lie, take a liking, take an interest in, take a fancy to, at a loss, a short while ago, at a stone's throw, as a rule, keep a secret, make a foot, make a noise, in a nutshell, in a hurry, in a fix, etc.

- e.g. (i) I am **in a fix** what to do?
(ii) He left for office **a short while ago**.

10. When so, as, too, how or quite is used before an Adjective, Indefinite Article (a/an) is used before the noun given after it.

- e.g. (i) It is too heavy **a box** for me to carry.
(ii) Amar is not so strong **a wrestler** as you think.

11. 'A/an' is used in such cases also.

e.g. Twenty rupees **a** dozen, fifteen rupees **a** kilo, two times **a** day, twenty five kilometers **an** hour, etc.



Common Errors:

- Never tell lie.
— Never tell a lie.
- Always speak truth.
— Always speak the truth.
- It is a half past seven by my watch.
— It is half past seven by my watch.
- It is quarter past five now.
— It is a quarter past five now.
- You are in wrong.
— You are in the wrong.
- I am in hurry.
— I am in a hurry.
- I read Indian Express daily.
— I read the Indian Express daily.
- The English is spoken by English.
— English is spoken by the English.
- Kavita is best girl in class.
— Kavita is the best girl in the class.
- The man is mortal.
— Man is mortal.
- He is a honest boy.
— He is an honest boy.
- His brother is M.P.
— His brother is an M.P.
- Here is a umbrella.
— Here is an umbrella.
- He has headache.
— He has a headache.
- It is time to take the tea.
— It is time to take tea.
- A red and white cow are grazing.
— A red and white cow is grazing.

ACTIVITY

- (a) The loss of jobs/ (b) is regarded by some as an necessary evil/ (c) in the fight against inflation. / (d) No error.
- (a) It is a/ (b) quarter to ten/ (c) by my watch./ (d) No error.
- (a) Gita doesn't usually / (b) wear jewellery but yesterday / (c) she wore ring. / (d) No error.
- (a) The police asked us/ (b) about our movements/ (c) on a night of crime./ (d) No error.
- (a) In science the credit goes to a man/ (b) who convinces the world, / (c) not to the man to whom the idea first occurs./ (d) No error.
- (a) It is only after/ (b) the match is over/ (c) that people realize / how exciting it is./ (d) No error.
- (a) Of the two/ (b) sisters, she/ (c) is better./ (d) No error.
- (a) It is unfortunate enough/ (b) to lose few friends we make/ (c) during our school days. / (d) No error.
- (a) There were a number of intelligent gentlemen at the party/ (b) but it was Mr. Subramaniam, an eminent scientist, / (c) who remained a centre of attraction./ (d) No error.
- (a) I have been/ (b) informed that/ (c) Mr. Sharma, the director and the chairman will visit Patna the following month. / (d) No error.
- (a) He is/ (b) the best worker/ (c) of the factory but unfortunately least paid. / (d) No error.
- (a) He has come out/ (b) with an unique proposal/ (c) for his friends / (d) No error.
- (a) When the house was/ (b) set on the fire, all the people/ (c) started shouting at the top of their voices., / (d) No error.
- (a) Little knowledge/ (b) of medicine that he possessed/ (c) proved to be a blessing for him when he was in great pain./ (d) No error.
- (a) It was/ (b) by a mistake/ (c) that he injured her hand. (d) No error.
- (a) These orders of/ (b) the Manager / (c) may put the lives of two thousand workers in a danger. / (d) No error.
- (a) I inspired him/ (b) to take the. heart/ (c) in all adverse situations and deserve to be called a real hero./ (d) No error.
- (a) The most happy/ (b) marriage would be/ (c) a union of a deaf man and a blind woman./ (d) No error.
- (a) John suggested to/ (b) the children of his village that they should/ (c) go to the school regularly and do their home work sincerely./ (d) No error.
- (a) Some people say that/ (b) her husband is in the jail/ (c) and so she lives alone./ (d) No error.
- (a) The Greek peoples / (b) are considered/ (c) very brave / (d) No error.
- (a) His father/ (b) asked him to go/ (c) to the temple every morning/ (d) No error.
- (a) There was little/ (b) milk in the refrigerator and she gave it/ (c) to. her crying son./ (d) No error.
- (a) He leads/ (b) a very luxurious life ! (c) so he goes to every part of India by a car./ (d) No error.
- (a) Thanks to an effort / (b) and persistence of the doctors, the victims of the blast/ (c) have been able to start a normal life again. / (d) No error.



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Answers

1.	(b)	2.	(a)	3.	(c)	4.	(c)	5.	(a)	6.	(b)	7.	(c)	8.	(b)
9.	(c)	10.	(c)	11.	(c)	12.	(b)	13.	(b)	14.	(a)	15.	(b)	16.	(c)
17.	(b)	18.	(c)	19.	(c)	20.	(b)	21.	(a)	22.	(c)	23.	(a)	24.	(c)
25.	(a)														

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