



IN THE CLASSROOM

The Article Mystery

It was Tuesday morning, and Ms. Davies, the English **teacher**, smiled at her **students**. "Today, class," she announced, "we're going to unravel the mystery of **articles**: 'a,' 'an,' and 'the!'" Leo, at his **desk** near the window, already looked puzzled. Mia, in the front, took a deep breath. This was going to be a challenging **lesson**.

Ms. Davies wrote "A," "AN," and "THE" largely on the **board**. She explained that "a" and "an" were for general things, while "the" was for specific things. She gave examples: "a cat" (any cat) versus "the cat" (your specific cat). "An apple," she said, "because 'apple' starts with a vowel sound." So far, so good. The students seemed to **learn** quickly.

Then came the exercises. Ms. Davies asked them to fill in blanks. Leo wrote, "I saw t~~h~~e bird. A bird was very small." Ms. Davies chuckled. "Almost, Leo! Was it a special bird, or just any bird?" Leo scratched his head. Mia tried to **discuss** with her **classmate**, Tom, why sometimes you say "I go to t~~h~~e school" but other times "I go to school." It was confusing! The **board** was soon filled with student examples, some correct, some quite funny.

Ms. Davies saw their struggle. "Okay, let's make it simple," she said, holding up a red pen. "This is **a** pen. If I say, 'Please give me **the** pen on my **desk**,' which pen do I mean?" Mia's eyes suddenly lit up. "The red one!" she said. "Yes!" Ms. Davies beamed. "And if I say, 'Give me **a** pen,' you can give me any pen!" The bell for the short break rang. Students packed their books, some still murmuring about "the mystery," but many felt a little lighter. They knew they'd **learn** more tomorrow, but for today, the secret of articles was a little less mysterious.

Comprehension Questions

Activity 1: True or False?

Listen to / Read the story again. Read each sentence and write **True (T)** or **False (F)**.

1. _____ Ms. Davies was the Science teacher.
2. _____ The lesson was about verbs.
3. _____ Leo sat at his desk near the window.
4. _____ Ms. Davies wrote "A," "AN," and "THE" on the board.
5. _____ All the students found the lesson very easy from the start.
6. _____ Leo made a funny mistake with the articles in his sentence.
7. _____ Mia understood everything about "the" very quickly.
8. _____ The students felt completely confused at the end of the lesson.

Activity 2: Choose the Best Answer

Listen to / Read the story. Read the questions and choose the best answer (A, B, or C).

1. What did Ms. Davies announce at the start of the lesson?
A. A new math game B. The mystery of articles
C. Their next field trip
2. What did Ms. Davies explain "a" and "an" were for?
A. Specific things B. Names of people
C. General things
3. What did Mia try to discuss with her classmate Tom?
A. Their favorite animals B. Why sometimes use "the" with "school" and
sometimes not
C. Their homework for next week
4. What did Ms. Davies use to help clarify the articles for Mia?
A. A specific red pen B. A picture of a cat
C. A story about an apple

Activity 3: Answer the Questions

Listen to / Read the story again and answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What subject did Ms. Davies teach?

2. Where did Leo sit in the classroom?

3. What was the first example Ms. Davies used for "an"?

4. How did Leo make a mistake in his sentence about the bird?

5. What happened at the end of the lesson, just before the break?

6. How did the students feel about the secret of articles when the lesson finished?

Teacher's Key

Activity 1: True or False?

1. **F** Ms. Davies was the Science teacher.
2. **F** The lesson was about verbs.
3. **T** Leo sat at his desk near the window.
4. **T** Ms. Davies wrote "A," "AN," and "THE" on the board.
5. **F** All the students found the lesson very easy from the start.
6. **T** Leo made a funny mistake with the articles in his sentence.
7. **F** Mia understood everything about "the" very quickly.
8. **F** The students felt completely confused at the end of the lesson.

Activity 2: Choose the Best Answer

1. What did Ms. Davies announce at the start of the lesson? **B. The mystery of articles**
2. What did Ms. Davies explain "a" and "an" were for? **C. General things**
3. What did Mia try to discuss with her classmate Tom? **B. Why sometimes you use "the" with "school" and sometimes not**
4. What did Ms. Davies use to help clarify the articles for Mia? **A. A specific red pen**

Activity 3: Answer the Questions

1. What subject did Ms. Davies teach?
Ms. Davies taught English.
2. Where did Leo sit in the classroom?
Leo sat at his desk near the window.
3. What was the first example Ms. Davies used for "an"?
The first example she used was "an apple."
4. How did Leo make a mistake in his sentence about the bird?
Leo wrote "I saw t he bird. A bird was very small," mixing up "a" and "the."
5. What happened at the end of the lesson, just before the break?
Ms. Davies helped Mia understand "a" versus "the" using a red pen example, and then the bell for the break rang.
6. How did the students feel about the secret of articles when the lesson finished?
They felt a little lighter and knew the secret of articles was a little less mysterious, but they knew they still needed to learn more.