



ARTICLES & DETERMINERS

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1. Learn the Rules

A and an — Use these with a singular countable noun when you talk about something for the first time or something that is not specific.

- I saw **a** dog in the street.
- She wants to buy **an** umbrella.
- He is **a** teacher.

Use **a** before a consonant sound and **an** before a vowel sound. Listen to the sound, not just the first letter.

- **a** university (starts with a /j/ sound)
- **an** hour (**the h is silent**)

The — Use **the** when the listener knows which person or thing you mean, when you have mentioned it before, or when there is only one in the relevant context.

- I saw a dog. **The** dog was very friendly.
- Please close **the** door. (We know which door.)
- **The** sun is shining.

No article — Often use no article when talking generally about plural countable nouns or uncountable nouns.

- Dogs need exercise.
- Water is important.
- She enjoys music.

Compare:

- I like coffee. (coffee in general)
- I'd like a coffee, please. (a cup of coffee)
- The coffee on this table is cold. (specific coffee)

2. Choose the Correct Answer

Circle the correct answer.

1. I saw (a / an / the) interesting film last night.
2. My brother is (a / an / the) engineer.
3. Could you open (a / an / the) window, please?
4. (A / The / No article) water is essential for life.
5. She bought (a / an / the) new phone yesterday. (We haven't talked about it before.)
6. (A / The / No article) children usually enjoy playing.
7. He waited for (a / an / the) hour.
8. I love listening to (a / the / no article) music.
9. We visited (a / an / the) museum you recommended.
10. She wants to become (a / an / the) university lecturer.

3. Complete the Sentences

Write a, an, the, or — if no article is needed.

1. My father reads _____ newspaper every morning.
2. _____ Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world.
3. We usually have _____ lunch at noon.
4. Can you pass me _____ salt, please?
5. She lives in _____ small apartment near _____ city centre.
6. _____ English is spoken in many countries.
7. I need _____ information about the course.
8. He is _____ honest person.
9. _____ students in this class are very friendly.
10. We went to _____ bed early because we were tired.

4. Correct the Mistakes

Each sentence has one article mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. She is an doctor. _____
2. I like the cats. (You mean cats in general.) _____
3. We had a lunch at a restaurant. _____
4. He is waiting for a bus we took yesterday. (You mean a specific bus already known to both people.) _____
5. The honesty is important. _____
6. She bought an uniform for work. _____
7. I need an advice. _____
8. Sun is very bright today. _____

REAL ENGLISH BOX

Listen for the sound, not just the spelling.

- a European country — European starts with a /j/ sound.
- an honest mistake — the h is silent.
- a one-hour lesson — one starts with a /w/ sound.
- an MBA course — the letter M starts with a vowel sound when spoken.

Teacher's Key

Activity 2: 1 an, 2 an, 3 the, 4 no article, 5 a, 6 no article, 7 an, 8 no article, 9 the, 10 a.

Activity 3: 1 a, 2 —, 3 —, 4 the, 5 a / the, 6 —, 7 —, 8 an, 9 the, 10 —.

Activity 4 — Suggested corrections:

1. She is a doctor.
2. I like cats.
3. We had lunch at a restaurant.
4. He is waiting for the bus we took yesterday.
5. Honesty is important.
6. She bought a uniform for work.
7. I need some advice. / I need a piece of advice.
8. The sun is very bright today.

Note: In Activity 3, sentence 2 uses no article with Mount Everest, and sentence 9 uses the because it refers to the particular students in this class.