



## MINI-LESSON 4: ARTICLES – A, AN, THE

---

### Objective

Understand how and when to use the articles **a**, **an**, and **the** in English.

---

### What Are Articles?

Articles are small words used **before nouns**. There are two types:

- **Indefinite articles: a, an**
  - **Definite article: the**
- 

### A or An?

Use **a** before words that start with a **consonant** sound:

- a cat
- a banana
- a university (sounds like /ju:/)

Use **an** before words that start with a **vowel** sound (a, e, i, o, u):

- an apple
- an hour (silent “h”)
- an elephant

**Tip:** It's the **sound** that matters, not the letter.

---



## The

Use **the** when talking about a **specific** person, place, or thing:

- The sun is bright.
- I saw **the** doctor.
- Let's go to **the** park. (a specific one)

We use "the" when the listener/reader knows what we are talking about.

---

## No Article

We **don't** use an article with:

- Plural nouns when talking in general:
    - Dogs are friendly.
  - Uncountable nouns in general:
    - Water is important.
- 

## Mini Dialogue

**A:** I saw a dog in the park.

**B:** Was it a big dog?

**A:** Yes! The dog chased a ball.

**Notice:** "a dog" (new info) → "the dog" (now we know which one)

---



## Practice: Fill in the Blanks

Complete with **a**, **an**, or **the**:

1. I have \_\_\_\_ orange.
2. She is \_\_\_\_ teacher.
3. They saw \_\_\_\_ elephant at the zoo.
4. He opened \_\_\_\_ window.
5. \_\_\_\_ moon looks beautiful tonight.

(Answers: 1. an 2. a 3. an 4. the 5. The)

## Try It Yourself

Write 3 sentences using **a**, **an**, or **the**:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Tip: First Mention = A/An, Second = The

Example:

- I saw **a** movie yesterday.
- **The** movie was amazing!

First time = "a" or "an"

Second time = "the"