

## English Grammar Class 8

### The Articles

In the following lesson, we are going to learn about articles, what are articles, their uses, types, etc. with various examples. You are also provided with practice questions to assess yourself and test what you have learned so far.



*Image: Articles*

#### **Articles:**

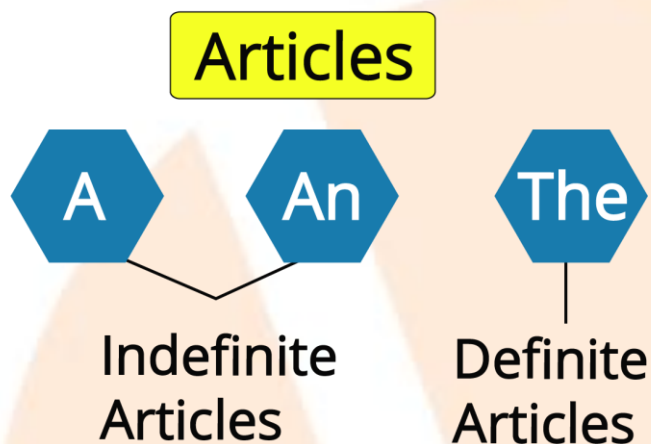
Articles are Noun-Linked Demonstrative Adjectives. They can also be classified under determiners. Instead of characterizing the noun, they serve the grammatical purpose of identifying it as a noun. A, an, and The are the three articles used in English. Articles are used before nouns or their equivalents.

- Before a noun, the definite article (the) is used to show that the reader is aware of the word's identity.
- The indefinite article (a, an) will be used before such a noun when it is uncertain or whose identity is unclear.
- The usage of articles 'a' and 'an' is also dependent on the alphabet of the noun word. If it starts with a vowel sound, the article 'an' is highly likely to be used. Whereas if the noun word starts with a consonant sound, the article 'a' is used.

- There are numerous cases a noun can be used without an article.



## Articles Grammar



*Image: Division of Articles*

### Types of Articles

#### Definite Article(the):

The definite article is used before specific or particular nouns in the singular and plural. The prefix "the" denotes the word's specificity and its reference to a particular group member.

For instance:

The canine that bit me escaped. Here, we're referring to a particular canine—the one that bit me.

#### Use of Definite Article:

- **To discuss a specific person or item**

When referring to a specific person or thing, the definite article 'the' is used.

Example:

1. **The** book you desire is no longer available. (What novel? The desired one.)

2. Come with me to **the** park. (In what park? Possibly the local one.)

- **Before a single noun intended to refer to the entire class**

A singular noun is used with the definite article 'the' when it is intended to indicate the entirety of the class to which it belongs.

Example:

1. A beneficial animal is **the** cow. (In this case, the singular noun cow designates an entire class.)

2. **The** rose is the most delectable flower there is.

3. Eight legs make up **the** spider.

- **Before the titles of certain books**

**The** Vedas and **The** Iliad are two examples.

- **Before superlative adjectives**

Superlative adjectives are preceded by the definite article 'the.'

Examples:

1. I have never seen **the** most pretty view.

2. Which mountain is **the** tallest in the world?

- **Before ordinal number**

Example:

1. Who received **the** first Nobel Prize for a woman?

2. **The** second part of the show was more thrilling than the first.

- **Before musical instruments**

Examples:

1. **The** flute playing skills are acquired by him.

2. She wants to play **the** guitar.

### **Indefinite Articles:**

An article that refers to a noun without defining it or that refers to a noun to first introduce it is known as an indefinite article.

There are only two basic indefinite articles in English: a and an.

‘An’ is typically used before a word that begins with a vowel sound whereas ‘a’ is typically used before a word that begins with a consonant sound of the first letter of the noun word .

For instance:

- On the ground, she discovered **a** penny. P (which is a consonant)
- He consumed **an** apple. (The vowel 'a' is.)

### **Exception in Use of Indefinite Articles:**

- **Words That Sounds Like ‘You’**

Many words sound like they begin with a vowel but don't. These situations call for the use of the article ‘a’ since the initial sound, which sounds like "you," is a consonant. Words like these include

1. **A** union
2. **A** European vacation
3. **A** URL
4. **A** eulogy

- **Words With the W Sound**

Words that have a consonant sound like "w" but start with the letter "o" are another example of consonant-sound words masquerading as vowel words. The only terms in the English language that fulfills this definition are one and one.

Examples

1. That was **a** one-time idea.
2. It's **a** once-in-a-lifetime chance.
3. **A** one-on-one discussion took place.

- **H-Starting Word**

These nouns employ the article ‘an’ despite all having the consonant "h" as their first letter:

Example:

1. **An** honorary
2. **An** heir
3. **An** hourglass



*Image: Omission of articles*

### **Omission of Articles**

The English language uses articles in many sentences. However, there are some situations in which an article is not appropriate.

#### **Rules:**

- **Articles are prohibited from being placed in front of proper nouns.**

Eg. Delhi is India's capital.

- **Languages do not require articles before them.**

Eg. Within a year, I had mastered Japanese.

- **Before being a common term used in its most basic sense.**

Eg. Many different forms of machinery are made out of iron.

- **The names of the subjects, such as mathematics, biology, economics, etc., are not preceded by articles.**

Eg. His passion for mathematics is something I dislike.

- **When terms like "nature," "science," "death," "life," etc. are used in a general sense, we eliminate the articles.**

Eg. Nature effortlessly abides by its own set of rules.

- **Before the names of meals like lunch, supper, etc., we avoid using articles.**

Eg. Did you eat dinner?

And in many other cases.

### Difficult Words with Meanings

Word	Meaning
Specific	Particular
Distinctive	Different
Colossal	Huge
Acquired	Gained

### Summary

The term "article" is used to indicate a noun's position as a noun without more explanation. An article is a word that modifies a noun, which can be a noun for a person, place, thing, or idea. Given that they offer specific information about the noun they precede, articles are a crucial component of the English language. Writing articles allows you to spread knowledge to a global audience and is crucial since readers may accurately connect their own experiences and opinions to the content of these articles.

### Practice Questions:

**Fill the gaps with necessary articles if required.**

1. I'd love to ask \_\_\_ query right now.
2. Today is \_\_\_ lovely day.
3. Mohini is employed with \_\_\_ job.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ road was being crossed by \_\_\_ man.

5. She has a job.
6. At \_\_\_ center of \_\_\_ square sits \_\_\_ colossal statue of Rani Lakshmbai.
7. Yours is \_\_\_ amazing tale.
8. What city is \_\_\_ Statue of Unity located in?
9. He is a member of \_\_\_ separate philosophical movement.
10. Do you know \_\_\_ location of \_\_\_ library?
11. She is \_\_\_ chemistry MSc.
12. Rashmi is \_\_\_ really special girl.
13. She wasn't in \_\_\_ mood to crack jokes.
14. This is \_\_\_ privilege for me.
15. \_\_\_ apple and \_\_\_ mango cannot be compared.
16. Each one of them is \_\_\_ distinctive fruit.

**Answers:**

1. I'd love to ask **a** query right now.
2. Today is **a** lovely day.
3. Mohini is employed with **a** job.
4. **The** road was being crossed by **a** man.
5. She has **a** job.
6. At **the** centre of **the** square sits **a** colossal statue of Rani Lakshmbai.
7. Yours is **an** amazing tale.
8. What city is **the** Statue of Unity located in?
9. He is a member of **a** separate philosophical movement.
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14. This is **a** privilege for me.

15. **An** apple and **a** mango cannot be compared.

16. Each one of them is **a** distinctive fruit.

