

STANDARD 6

CH 8: ARTICLES

- **Types of Articles**
- **Indefinite Articles**
- **Definite Articles**
- **Omission of Articles**
- **Exceptions to the rules**

1. Articles

- **Definition:** A, an and the are articles, they are used to point out things, people, animals and places. They are used with nouns. They come before nouns.
- Articles are of two types- Definite articles and indefinite articles.

INDEFINITE ARTICLES: A OR AN

- These do not point to any particular person or thing, they suggest any person or anything.
- They come before singular common nouns.
Eg. Give me **a** banana.
Here the speaker wants any banana.
'banana' is a singular common noun.

Use of 'a'	Use of 'an'
Used before a singular countable noun that begins with a consonant sound.	Used before singular countable nouns which begins with a vowel sound.
Eg. a man, a baby, a European ('y' sound), a university ('y' sound).	Eg. an apple, an American, an hour ('o' sound) , an MP ('e' sound).

2. Uses of 'A' and 'An'

i. To indicate one person or thing, may be used for any thing or person.

- Examples: Lucy Gray was a little girl.
- Ricky Ponting is an Australian cricketer.
- You had a lot of time to complete the exercise.
- Give me a one rupee coin.

ii. To show a kind, a class or a species.

- Examples: Though a European by birth, Jay always considers himself Indian.
- I have a bonsai tree.

iii. To show a certain quantity.

- Examples: There are a dozen oranges.

iv. To show profession, rank, caste, community, religion of a person.

- Examples: My aim is to become an engineer.
- He is a general.
- He is a Christian.

3. Definite Article

Definition: 'The' is the definite article. It indicates a particular object, thing or person.

- It can come before both singular and plural nouns.

- Uses of 'the'

i. Before any noun when we want to particularize it.

Eg. We lost the game against Delhi Daredevils.

I bought a cycle for you. The cycle is red in colour.

ii. Before superlatives.

Eg. '3 idiots' was the best movie of 2010.

The giraffe is the tallest creature on earth.

iii. Before words like 'first', 'last', 'next', 'only'

Eg. Sir Edmund Hillary was the first person to climb Mt. Everest.

I am currently reading the ninth chapter of the book.

iv. Before a common noun when that noun represents a whole class.

Eg. The deer is a timid creature.

v. Before the names of:

- a. **newspapers:** 'The Times of India' is an Indian newspaper.
- b. **unique things:** the sun, the moon, the sky.
The sun is the brightest object in the sky.
- c. **geographical proper nouns:** the Ganges, the Alps.
The Alps is located in Europe.
- d. **holy or great books:** the Gita, the Bible, the Odyssey, the Quran.
* when we mention the author's name we omit 'the' and write Homer's Odyssey.
The Gita is one of the holy books of the Hindus.
- e. **trains, ships, aeroplanes:** The Taj Express, The Rajdhani Express.
One of the fastest trains in India is the Rajdhani Express.
- f. **well – known buildings:** The Taj Mahal, The India Gate.
Eg. The Taj Mahal is in Uttar Pradesh.
- g. **countries,** if it contains a common noun: the United Arab Emirates.
The United States of America is one of the developed countries in the world.
- h. **the directions:** the north, the south.
Eg. The sun rises in the east and sets in the west.
- i. **the whole families:** the Roy's, the Khans.
This whole property belongs to the Khans.
The Tatas are a well known industrialist family in India.

4. Omission of Articles

i. Articles are not used before proper nouns.

Eg. **Sachin Tendulkar** is a cricketer.

Mumbai is in Maharashtra.

ii. Articles are not used before abstract nouns.

Eg. **Honesty** is a rare quality.

iii. Articles are not used before material nouns such as gold, silver, water.

Eg. **Gold** is a precious metal.

We cannot survive without **water**.

* **The water** in the jug is chilled.

‘the’ is used because we are talking about particular water in the jug.

5. Exceptions

Whenever any kind of noun **is particularised** we have to use the definite article 'the' before it :

(i) **The honesty** of the young man impressed the interviewer.

Here 'honesty' is not generalised as it did in the previous example. This example talks about a particular quality that is honesty of a particular young man. Hence, 'the' is used before 'honesty'.

(ii) **The gold** that we purchased yesterday has been kept in the bank locker.

Here, 'the' is used before the material noun 'gold' since the subject is the particular 'gold' that the speaker bought the day before.

(iii) Sachin Tendulkar is often called **the Bradman** of Indian cricket.

Sir Donald Bradman was a great Australian cricketer. By putting 'the' before 'Bradman' the proper noun has been turned into a common noun meaning a great cricketer like Bradman. Thus, the sentence means that Sachin is often considered to be a great cricketer like Bradman with respect to Indian cricket.

6. Fill in the blanks with *a, an or the*.

- i. January is the first month of the year.
- ii. The Red Sea is vast.
- iii. I saw a woman on the railway platform who seemed to be lost.
- iv. He wants to take admission in the university which offers M.Tech in microbiology.
- v. An orphan can do well in life if he gets good support from others.
- vi. The Kalahari desert is one of the hottest deserts in the world.
- vii. The President is going to address the nation today.
- viii. The soldiers attacked the enemy.
- ix. Could you please buy me a hundred crates of oranges.
- x. Rita is a brilliant girl.
- xi. He is known as the Michael Jackson of St. Mary's for his dancing skills.
- xii. The Torah is one of the most holy ancient books of scripture.

- **This is the end of zoom class for Ch 8 Articles.**
- **This does not have to be copied anywhere.**
- **It is for your further understanding to refer to.**