

'A', 'An', 'The' are called Articles.

'A' and 'An' 'are' called **Indefinite Articles** while 'the' is called **Definite Article**.



- A/An are used before singular countable nouns when they are indefinite and introduced for the first time.

- (a) This is book. (×)  
This is **a** book. (✓)
- (b) She sang song. (×)  
She sang **a** song. (✓)
- (c) This is umbrella. (×)  
This is **an** umbrella. (✓)

- Where are articles used ?

She is \_\_\_excellent. (Here no article will come because there is no noun after excellent. An article needs a noun in absence of which, we cannot use any article.

She is an excellent student. (✓)

- An 'article' comes before a 'noun'.

E.g.: She is **a** student.  
  noun

- If an adjective qualifies the noun, the 'article' comes before the 'adjective'.

E.g.: She is **an** excellent student.  
  adj                noun

- If an 'adverb' qualifies the 'adjective' qualifying the 'noun', the 'article' comes before the 'adverb'.

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E.g.: She is a very good student.  
                            adv      adj      noun

### > Use of A/An

1. **A/An** are used before **indefinite singular countable nouns**.

**A/An** are called indefinite articles.

E.g.: (a) I have **a** car. (c) This is **an** orange.  
(b) He sang **a** song. (d) Ram is **a** student.

- > **(A)** **An** is used only before vowel sounds. Remember '**a,e,i,o,u**' do not necessarily produce vowel sound. We must see the Hindi letters if we are comfortable in Hindi because the vowels of Hindi letters ( अ, आ, इ, ई, उ, ऊ, ए, ऐ, ओ, औ ) can be helpful else we need to learn phonetics.

- > **(B)** If the word starts not with vowel sound but with consonant sound, article '**A**' is used.

E.g.: **An** umbrella

**A** university

**A** union

**A** year

**A** one rupee note

**An** honest man

**In abbreviation** too take care of the pronunciation.

E.g.:

- (a) He is **an** MLA/ MP (b) He lodged **an** FIR.  
(c) He is **an** IAS officer. (d) He is **an** SHO.  
(e) I have **an** x-ray machine. (f) She is **an** LL.B graduate.  
(g) I have been waiting for **an** hour. (h) He is **an** heir to the throne.  
(i) Ram is **an** honest person.

### > Other Examples

1. **An** hour.
2. **An** honour.
3. **An** honourable person.
4. **An** honest man
5. **An** heir.
6. **A** house
7. **An** honorarium.
8. **A** historical monument.
9. **A** young man.
10. **A** ewe.
11. **An** eagle.
12. **A** European.
13. **A** university.
14. **A** unit.
15. **A** union.
16. **An** Umbrella
17. **A** unique planet.
18. **A** useful book.
19. **A** year.
20. **A** one-rupee note.
21. **A** one-eyed man.
22. **An** orange
23. **An** F.O.
24. **A** forest officer.
25. **An** M.P
26. **A** Member of Parliament.



1. **A/An** is used before **singular countable nouns** which means that **can be counted**.

- E.g.: (a) I have **a** pen.  
 (b) She has **a** car.  
 (c) Ram has **an** umbrella.  
 (d) She is **a** housewife.

**Note:** Noise is an **uncountable** noun, yet it takes '**a**' before it.

- E.g.: (a) Do not make **a** noise.  
 (b) In **exclamatory sentences**, **A/An** is used after '**what**' and '**how**' and before the singular countable noun that comes in the sentence.

- E.g.: (a) What **a** grand building!  
 (b) What **a** pretty girl!

3. In place of '**per**', '**a/an**' can be used.

- E.g.: (a) This car runs twenty kilometres **a** litre.  
 (b) I earn ten thousand **a** month.  
 (c) This train runs 27 kilometres **an** hour.

4. With a few words that denote the number of countable nouns such as '**hundred**', '**thousand**', '**million**', '**dozen**', '**couple**' etc '**a**' is used.

- E.g.: (a) **A** dozen apples.  
 (b) I have **a** hundred pens.

5. '**A**' is used before fractions and **half/fractions**.

- (a)  $2\frac{1}{4}$  m - two and **a** quarter metre.  
 (b)  $3\frac{1}{2}$  km - Three and **a** half metre.  
 (c) She has to run **half a** mile everyday.

6. When a verb is used as a noun, it takes article '**A/An**' before it.

- E.g.: (a) He goes for **a walk** daily.  
 (b) He has gone for **a ride**.  
 (c) I had **a talk** with them.

7. If **many/rather/quite/such** takes a singular noun after them, '**A/An**' is used before the noun.

- (a) Many **a** citizen would welcome such a change.  
 (b) It is rather **a** pity.  
 (c) It was quite **an** impossible task.  
 (d) It was such **a** foolish decision.

- In a few phrases **A/An** are used. Some of these phrases are-  
**In a fix, in a hurry, in a nutshell, make a noise, make a foot, keep a secret, as a rule, at a stone's throw, a short while ago, at a loss, take a fancy to, take an interest in, take a liking, a pity, tell a lie.**

E.g.: (a) Never tell **a** lie.  
 (b) Do not make **a** noise.  
 (c) Twelve inches make **a** foot.

- In a few phrases **A/An** are not used. Some of these phrases are-  
**To lose heart, to set foot, to give ear, at home, last but not least, to catch fire, in hand, set on fire, by car/bus etc, at last, by mistake, in danger, to take heart.**

E.g.: (a) I am at home.  
 (b) The house was set on fire.  
 (c) I go to college by bus.

Where do we omit '**A/An**' ?

- It should **not** be used with a **plural noun**.

E.g.: A boys have come (×)  
           pl.n.

Boys have come (✓)

**The** boys have come (✓)

- **A/An is not used with uncountable nouns.**

**Advice, Accommodation, Baggage, Luggage, News, Permission, Progress, Scenery, Weather, Traffic, Knowledge, Music, Wine, Equipment, Information, Poetry, Furniture, Hair, Business, Mischief, Bread, Stationery Crockery, Postage, Wastage, Money, Jewellery, Breakage, Work, Evidence.**

E.g.: (a) He gave me an advice (remove 'an')  
 (b) I will buy a furniture today (remove 'a')

- **NOTE:** A few words are used before certain uncountable nouns to make them countable.

E.g.: (a) I have **a piece of information** for you.

(b) I had **a slice of bread**.

(c) He gave **me a piece of** work to do.

- Articles are not used before the nouns, in sentences, starting with '**what kind of, what sort of, what type of**' and '**what variety of**'.

E.g.: (a) **What sort of** a man he is ! (×)

**What sort of** man he is ! (✓)

- **Use of Definite article 'The'**

- '**The**' is used before **definite nouns** towards which we can **point out**; the nouns that we can **visualize** or that has **already been introduced**. '**The**' is hence called **Definite article**.



E.g.: (a) Once upon a time, there lived **a king**. **The king** was very kind. One day, he met **an old man**. **The old man** was very poor.

In the first sentence '**a king**' is introduced. In the second sentence, we have become familiar with the character '**king**' and hence '**the**' comes before '**king**'. In the third sentence '**an old man**' is introduced and in the fourth sentence after we have become familiar with the character '**old man**', '**the**' comes before '**old man**'.

- (b) **The** man in white shirt is my brother.  
 (c) **The** boy standing near the gate is my brother. In sentence (b) & (c), '**the**' is used to be specific about the noun we are talking about.

## USE OF ARTICLE WITH DIFFERENT KINDS OF NOUN

### PROPER NOUN

1. Article **never** comes with the names of any person or place.

E.g.: Ram was an obedient son.

Rome is an ancient city.

### Exceptions:-

In the following cases article **A/An** is used before proper nouns.

E.g.: (a) **A** Mr. Sharma has come to meet you.

- (b) This book is written by **a** Dinesh Mishra.

In sentences (a) and (b), the nouns '**Mr. Sharma**' and '**Mr. Dinesh Mishra**' are not known to the speaker and he knows only the name that has been conveyed to him, so **A** is used before '**Mr. Sharma**' and '**Mr. Dinesh Mishra**'

- When **a person or place** is mentioned in a sentence for **comparative purpose**, '**the**' comes before that proper noun.

- (a) He is **the Ram** of modern India.

- (b) He is **a Hitler**.

- (c) Jaipur is **the Rome** of India.

- '**The**' comes before the **names of a few places**.

E.g.: **The** Ukraine

**The** Great Britain

**The** Netherlands

**The** Hague.

2. '**The**' does **not** come with the **names of States**. Exception- '**The Punjab**'.

3. '**The**' is **not** used with the **name of any country**.

E.g.: America, Russia, China etc.

However, if '**Union**', '**United**', '**Republic**' or '**Kingdom**' comes with the names of the country, '**the**' is used.

E.g.: The U.S.A., The Soviet Union, The Irish Republic.



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4. 'The' comes before the **names of mountain ranges**.

E.g.: **The** Himalayas, **The** Alps.

Note: 'Aravali' is **not** a mountain range. Hence 'the' **doesn't come** before it.

➤ 'The' **doesn't** come before the names of **mountain peaks**.

E.g.: Mt. Everest, Mt. Abu.

5. 'The' comes before '**nationality**' but **not** with the name of any '**language**'.

E.g.: **The** English speak English.

**The** English defeated **the** French.

6. Article does **not** come before the **name of any disease**.

**Exceptions:** **The** Measles, **The** Rickets, **The** Mumps, **The** Plague, **The** Flu.

7. 'The' is used with the following **Proper Nouns**:-

- (i) **Names of Rivers:** **The** Yamuna, **the** Ganga, **the** Godawari, **the** Sutlej.
- (ii) **Names of Seas:** **The** Arabian sea, **the** Caribbean sea.
- (iii) **Names of Oceans:** **The** Indian Ocean, **the** Pacific Ocean, **the** Atlantic Ocean.
- (iv) **Names of Groups of islands:** **The** lakshdweep, **the** Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- (v) **Names of Heavenly Objects:** **The** Sun, **the** Venus,
- (vi) **Names of Bays:** **The** Bay of Bengal.
- (vii) **Names of Deserts :** **The** Sahara Desert.
- (viii) **Names of Canals :** **The** Suez Canal.
- (ix) **Names of Newspapers :** **The** Hindu, **The** Times of India.
- (x) **Names of Movements:** **The** Quit India Movement
- (xi) **Names of Union:** **The** U.N.
- (xii) **Names of Airways/ Trains:** **The** Jet Airways, **the** Intercity, **the** Rajdhani Express.
- (xiii) **Names of Political Parties:** **The** BJP, **the** Congress.
- (xiv) **Names of Statutes/Acts :** **The** Indian Penal code, **The** Legislature.
- (xv) **Names of Musical Instruments:** **The** flute, **the** violin.
- (xvi) **Names of Religion:** **The** Hindus, **the** Muslims, **the** Sikhs
- (xvii) **Names of Inventions:** **The** telescope, **the** telephone.
- (xviii) **Names of Clubs :** **The** Lions Club,
- (xix) **Names of Dynasty:** **The** Marathas, **the** Peshwas.
- (xx) **Names of body parts :** Only when a possessive adjective is replaced by any article otherwise articles don't come before parts of **body**.

E.g.: He was wounded in **his/the** eye.

(xxi) **Dates:** **The** 10th of May.

(xxii) **Army/Police:** **The** Army, **the** Police.



- (xxiii) **Names of planets:** The Venus, **the** Mars.
- (xxiv) **Names of hotels:** The Taj Hotel.
- (xxv) **Names of trophies/Cups:** The World Cup.
- (xxvi) **Names of Era, Revolutions & Wars:** The Middle Ages, **The** French Revolution.
- (xxv) **Names of things that are unique:** The world, **The** universe, **the** environment, **the** atmosphere.

9. **'The'** comes before **space** only when it means **'room'**.

E.g.: (a) He tried to park his car but **the** space was not enough.

(b) Many astronauts dream of going to space.

10. **'The'** is used before directions - **The** East, **The** West.

If direction comes before the name of any place, **'the'** is **not** used.

E.g.: West Bengal

Article does not come before **Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western** as they are adjectives and will not take any article unless followed by a suitable noun.

E.g.: **Western** India

**Some more examples-**

1. **The** sun rises in **the** east.
2. He is going to **North America**.
3. Rajasthan is in **Western India**.
4. Sweden is in **Northern Europe**.

11. **Before the names of holy books:** **The** Gita, **The** Bible.

12. **Before the names of monuments :** **The** Taj Mahal, **the** Red fort.

**Note:** **'The'** does not come before the names of **buildings, monuments** and **sacred books** if the name comprises two or more words out of which **one is the name of a person or place**,

E.g.: Delhi Airport, Victoria Palace, London Zoo, Jai Singh Palace, Indira Gandhi Airport, Valmiki's Ramayan, Banabhatt's Kadambari.

13. **Names of movements:** **The** Quit India Movement.

14. **Names of Posts:** **The** chairman, **The** director

Here A/An can also be used before the names of the posts if we are talking about one out of many similar posts.

E.g.: She is **a** director of many companies.

➤ **Articles do not come with :**

- (i) **Names of months :** July, September etc.
- (ii) **Names of days:** Sunday, Monday etc.
- (iii) **Names of subjects:** Maths, Physics etc.



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- (iv) **Names of roads:** Mall road, M. K. Road etc.
  - (v) **Names of meals:** Lunch, Dinner etc.
  - (vi) **Names of languages:** English, Hindi etc.
  - (vii) **Names of Hobbies:** Gardening, Singing etc.
  - (viii) **Names of Games:** Hockey, Cricket etc.
  - (ix) **Before noun complement:** appoint, make, elect, select.
- E.g.: They elected him **the** president.

- (x) '**The**' is **not** used before '**Heaven**', '**Hell**', '**God**' and '**Parliament**'.
- E.g.: (i) Go to hell.  
(ii) God resides in heaven.  
(iii) The bill was passed in Parliament.

### ➤ COMMON NOUN

1. If an object is **already known** to both the speaker and the listener, article '**The**' is used before it.

- E.g.: (a) Kindly return **the** book. (That I gave you)  
(b) Can you turn off **the** light. (The light in the room)

2. If an **article** comes before a **singular common noun**, it can represent the **entire species**.

E.g.: **A** dog is a faithful animal.

**NOTE:** **Man** doesn't come under this rule because the word 'man' means a human being.

E.g.: **Man** is mortal.

3. When we talk about a **personality present inside a person**, article comes with the name of that personality.

E.g.: (a) **The** judge (moral of judge) in him, prevailed upon **the** father (love of father for his son) and he sentenced his son to death.

(b) **A** mother (feelings of motherhood) was born in her when she saw the baby.

4. If **Schools, colleges, Temple** are denoted in reference to their primary purpose, article is not used.

E.g.: Children should go to school.

I go to temple every morning.

- An article is used if school, college, temple etc. denotes a place or a building and not its primary purpose.

E.g.: My house is behind **a** school.

The college is next to **the** temple.

### ➤ Abstract Noun/Material Noun

**No Article** is generally used with abstract nouns. They are uncountable **nouns** hence **A/An** cannot be used with them.



E.g.: Gold is precious.

Honesty is the best policy.

- **Note:** If nouns are followed by 'of' an article **precedes** the noun.

**Article + Noun + of + ...**

- (1) **The** cotton **of** Egypt is known for its superior quality.
- (2) **The** honesty **of** this boy is liked by all.

➤ **Use of article with adjectives-**

- (1) 'The' is often used before **superlative degree**.
- (a) He is **the best** student of our class.
- (b) She is **the most** beautiful girl of the town.

**Note:** Article 'A/An' can also be used if we talk about one out of many nouns qualified by superlative adjectives.

E.g.: This is a most useful book needed for competitive exams.

- (2) '**The**' is used before **the comparative degree**, when two comparative degrees are shown to be directly or inversely proportional to each other.

E.g.: (a) **The more** electricity you use, **the higher** your bill will be.

(b) **The higher** you rise, **the greater** is the fall.

- (3) If one out of two are chosen, a comparative degree is used **preceded by 'the'** and **followed by 'of'**.

E.g.: (a) He is **the stronger** of the two players.

(b) He is **the better** of the two wrestlers.

- But if one out of many are chosen, a Superlative degree is used, **preceded by 'the'** and **followed by 'of'**.

E.g.: She is the best of all the players.

- (4) When 'the' is used before **adjectives** like **honest, rich, poor, meek** etc., it denotes the entire class and becomes plural common noun. Such nouns take plural verb.

E.g.: (a) **The honest** are always rewarded.

(b) **The rich** exploit the poor.

(c) **The young and the old, the poor and the rich**, all demand corruption free India.

- (5) When any **adjective** or a **noun** qualifies a **proper noun**, article '**the**' is used with the proper noun.

E.g.: Ashoka **the great**,

**The great** Akbar,

Napolean, **the warrior**.

- (6) '**The**' is used before **Ordinal numbers** (**first, second, third** etc). **Cardinal numbers** such as **one, two, three** do not take any article before them.



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E.g.: (a) Chapter **two** of this book is very difficult.

(b) **The second** chapter of this book is very difficult.

(c) Volume **one** is on Grammar.

(d) **The first** volume is on Grammar.

(7) 'The' is used before adjective 'same' and 'whole' and after 'all' and 'both'.

E.g.: (a) He is **the same** boy that met me in the market.

(b) **The whole period** was wasted.

(8) When Article 'a' or 'the' is used with few and little, the sentence takes a different meaning.

**Few** (a) A few - Not equivalent to zero.

(b) Few - Equivalent to zero but not equal zero.

(c) The few - All that is available.

**Little** (a) A little - Not equivalent to nothing.

(b) Little - Equivalent to nothing but not equal to nothing.

(c) The little - All that is available.

This has been given in detail in chapter Adjective.

➤ If **so, as, too, how** and **quite** are used before **adjectives**, **A/An** is used if the **noun** that follows the adjective is **singular**.

E.g.: (a) It is too heavy **a** box for me to carry.

(b) Rohit is not so big **a** businessman as you think.

### USE OF ARTICLE ACCORDING TO SUBJECT - VERB AGREEMENT

➤ If an **article** is placed **before the 1st subject only**, it means the **person/thing is the same** for which two nouns are used. Hence **singular verb** will be used.

E.g.: (a) A white and black gown **was** bought by her.  
                S.V.

(b) Churchill was a great orator and a great politician of his time. (x)

Churchill was a great orator and politician of his time. (✓)

➤ But if an **article** is used **before every subject**, it refers to **different people/things**. Hence **plural verb** will be used.

E.g.: (a) **The** director and **the** producer have come.(✓)  
P.V.

(b) The secretary and the treasurer were present there.

(b) The secretary and treasurer are different individuals.

➤ **Difference between A/An and One:**

1. **A** and **An** are articles. One is an adjective

- 'A' is used in the sense of 'per' as in per day, per week, per kg etc.

**E.g.:** Ten rupees a kilo, four times a day, **sixty** kilometres an hour, twelve rupees a dozen.

3. Use of 'A' and 'One' gives different meanings to a sentence when used before a noun.



E.g.: **One** cow is not enough for our joint family (we need two or more as the consumption of milk is huge.)

**A** cow is a useful animal. (cows are useful)

4. **One** can be used with **another/other** but '**a**' cannot be used.

E.g.: (a) One student wants to study, another wants to play.

(b) One day he comes, the other day he does not.

5. '**One**' comes before **day/week/month/year/summer/winter** etc., when we are referring to an incident on **that particular** day/week etc.

(a) One night there was a terrible storm.

(b) One day Ravana came to Sita's cottage.

6. Use of '**one day**' does not point to any particular day.

E.g.: (a) One day you will realize your mistake.

(b) One day you will feel sorry for what you have done.

7. '**One**' can be used as **a /an pronoun** too.

E.g.: (a) Did you get any berth? Yes, I managed to get one.

**Note:** Plural of 'one' is 'some'.

E.g.: Did you get berths for your party workers? Yes, I managed to get some.

8. To **Avoid repetition** of a 'noun' we use pronoun 'one'.

E.g.: This car is better than that one.