

# ARTICLES

The 3 **articles** in English are **a**, **an** and **the**. The learner has to decide noun-by-noun which one of the articles to use.

The word **a** (which becomes **an** when the next word begins with a vowel - a, e, i, o, u) is called the indefinite article because the noun it goes with is indefinite or general. The meaning of the article a is similar to the number one, but one is stronger and gives more emphasis. It is possible to say I have a book or I have one book, but the second sentence emphasizes that I do not have two or three or some other number of books.

The word **the** is known as the definite article and indicates a specific thing. The difference between the sentences I sat on a chair and I sat on the chair is that the second sentence refers to a particular, specific chair, not just any chair.

Many nouns, especially singular forms of countable nouns must have an article. In English, it is not possible to say I sat on chair without an article, but a demonstrative or possessive adjective can be used instead of an article as in the sentences I sat on that chair and I sat on his chair.

## *The Definite article (The)*

## *The Indefinite Articles (A,An)*

### **'A' is used:**

- Before a word which begins with a consonant.

Example:

*A woman*

- Before a singular, countable noun

Example:

*A banana*

- When we mention something for the first time

Example:

*I saw a dog*

- Before a word with a long sound of 'u'

Example:

*a university, a uniform, a useful book, a European*

- Before the word one

Example:

*a one-way street, a one-eyed man, a one-year course, a one-day holiday, etc.*

### **'An' is used:**

- Before a noun which begins with a vowel.

Example:

*an apple*

- Before a word which begins with a vowel sound or a silent 'h'.

Example:

*an hour, an honest man, an heir, an honour, an honourable man, etc*

- Before a singular, countable noun which begins with a vowel or silent 'h'

Example:

*an orange*

**'The' is used:**

- When the same thing or person mentioned again, that is, a particular thing or person

Example:

*I bought an orange.*

*The orange is sweet.*

- When there is only one such thing.

Example:

*the earth, the sun, the moon*

- Before the names of famous buildings, etc

Example:

*The Eiffel Tower, The Great Wall of China*

- When a singular noun is used to point out a whole class, race, group, etc.

Example:

*The bear is a strong animal.*

- Before the special names of rivers, seas, oceans, mountain ranges, groups of islands, certain organizations, political parties, and countries such as the U.S.A., the U.K., the U.S.S.R. and the U.A.E., The Nile, The Dead Sea, The Pacific Ocean, The Himalayas, The United Nations, The Republican Party, etc

- Before the names of holy or important books

Example:

*The Khuran, The Bible*

- Before an adjective when the noun is understood.

Example:

*The poor need help.*

**Articles are not used::**

- Before the name of a person:

Example:

*I am a fan of Michael Jackson. (not A or The Michael Jackson)*

- Before the name of a place, town, country, street, or road.

Example:

*Barcelona is a beautiful city. (not A or The Barcelona)*

- Before names of materials.

Example:

*Gold is found in Australia. (not A or The gold)*

- Before abstract nouns used in a general sense.

Example:

*We love all beauty. (not a beauty or the beauty)*

# Nouns

It's not easy to describe a noun. In simple terms, nouns are "things" (and verbs are "actions"). Like food. **Food** (noun) is something you eat (verb). Or happiness. **Happiness** (noun) is something you want (verb). Another example is "human being". A **human being** (noun) is something you are (verb).

## What are Nouns?

The simple definition is: a person, place or thing  
**teacher, school, book**

## Types

Countable Nouns, Uncountable Nouns  
**dog/dogs, rice, hair(s)**

## Proper Nouns (Names)

Do we say "Atlantic Ocean" or "the Atlantic Ocean"? Should I write "february" or "February"?  
**Shirley, Mr Jeckyll, Thailand, April, Sony**

## Possessive 's

Adding 's or ' to show possession.  
**John's car, my parents' house**

## Noun as Adjective

Sometimes we use a noun to describe another noun. In that case, the first noun is "acting as" an adjective.  
**love story, tooth-brush, bathroom**

In English grammar, words that refer to people, places, or things are called nouns. They can be classified in many ways.

One way to classify nouns is according to whether they can be counted or not. Many English mistakes are related to this point. By reading through this page, you will understand:

what countable and uncountable nouns are  
how to use them correctly in a sentence

**Countable (or count)** nouns are words which can be counted. They have a singular form and a plural form. They usually refer to things. Most countable nouns become plural by adding an 's' at the end of the word.

Singular	Plural
Chair	chairs
Bottle	bottles
Student	students

**Uncountable (or non-count)** nouns are words which cannot be counted. Therefore, they only have a singular form. They have no plural forms. These words are thought of as wholes rather than as parts. They usually refer to abstractions (such as confidence or advice) or collectives (such as equipment or luggage).

<b>Singular</b>
Money
Furniture
Information

# Adjectives

Adjectives describe or give information about nouns or pronouns.

## For example:-

The grey dog barked. (The adjective grey describes the noun "dog").

The good news is that the form of an adjective does not change. It does not matter if the noun being modified is male or female, singular or plural, subject or object.

Some adjectives give us factual information about the noun - age, size colour etc (fact adjectives - can't be argued with). Some adjectives show what somebody thinks about something or somebody - nice, horrid, beautiful etc (opinion adjectives - not everyone may agree).

If you are asked questions with which, whose, what kind, or how many, you need an adjective to be able to answer.

There are different types of adjectives in the English language:

- 1) **Numeric:** six, one hundred and one
- 2) **Quantitative:** more, all, some, half, more than enough
- 3) **Qualitative:** colour, size, smell etc.
- 4) **Possessive:** my, his, their, your
- 5) **Interrogative:** which, whose, what
- 6) **Demonstrative:** this, that, those, these

Where a number of adjectives are used together, the order depends on the function of the adjective. The usual order is:

Value/opinion, Size, Age/Temperature, Shape, Colour, Origin, Material

<b>Value/opinion</b>	delicious, lovely, charming
<b>Size</b>	small, huge, tiny
<b>Age/Temperature</b>	old, hot, young
<b>Shape</b>	round, square, rectangular
<b>Colour</b>	red, blonde, black
<b>Origin</b>	Swedish, Victorian, Chinese
<b>Material</b>	plastic, wooden, silver

## Examples:

- a *lovely old red* post-box
- some *small round plastic* tables
- some *charming small silver* ornaments

# Adverbs

*Adverbs of certainty* express how certain or sure we feel about an action or event.

Common adverbs of certainty:

***certainly, definitely, probably, undoubtedly, surely***

1. Adverbs of certainty go before the main verb but after the verb 'to be':

- He ***definitely*** left the house this morning.
- He is ***probably*** in the park.

2. With other auxiliary verb, these adverbs go between the auxiliary and the main verb:

- He has ***certainly*** forgotten the meeting.
- He will ***probably*** remember tomorrow.

3. Sometimes these adverbs can be placed at the beginning of the sentence:

- ***Undoubtedly***, Winston Churchill was a great politician.

BE CAREFUL! with ***surely***. When it is placed at the beginning of the sentence, it means the speaker thinks something is true, but is looking for confirmation:

- ***Surely*** you've got a bicycle?

Many adverbs end in (-ly). We form such adverbs by adding -ly to the adjective. Here are some

## Examples

quickly, softly, strongly, honestly, interestingly

But not all words that end in (-ly) are adverbs. "Friendly", for example, is an adjective.

Some adverbs have no particular form, for example:

well, fast, very, never, always, often, still

Adjective	adverb
Dangerous	dangerously
Careful	carefully
Nice	nicely
Horrible	horribly
Easy	easily
<b>irregular forms</b>	
Good	well

fast	fast
Hard	hard