



“ Correct the use of the articles in these sentences.

1. My father is an pilot.
2. There was the dog in a street. It was barking at everyone.
3. A president of an United States is giving the speech tonight.
4. His father is a engineer. His mother is an lawyer.
5. I live in the apartment. A apartment is very old.



The words **a**, **an** and **the** are called **articles**. We use them before nouns to indicate whether they are general or specific. **A** and **an** are called **indefinite articles**. **The** is called the **definite article**.

Let us now study the use of articles.

We use **a** or **an**

1. when we are talking about something in general and not specific. For example,
  - I need **a** new phone.
  - I need **an** umbrella.
  - Mark wants **a** bicycle for his birthday.
2. when we are talking about something which is new, and are introducing it for the first time to the listener.
  - I have **a** bicycle.
  - I have bought **a** new dress.
3. before words that mean a collection of things. For example, **a** gallon, **a** dozen.

We use **the**

1. before nouns that are unique. For example,
  - **The** sun is bright today.

## Note

- We use **a** before words that begin with a consonant sound and also before words that begin with a vowel but produce a consonant sound. For example, a river, a book, a European, a unicorn.
- We use **an** before words that begin with a vowel sound and also before words that begin with a silent h. For example, an ice cream, an umbrella, an hour.



- **The** Bible is a holy book.
  - **The** Pacific is the deepest ocean.
2. when talking about something that is known to the listener. For example,
- Do you know where **the** keys are?
  - Put on **the** dress that Mom gave you.
3. to refer to a time period. For example,
- This song was popular in **the** 1990s.
  - In **the** past, we did not have electricity.
4. Before names of rivers, oceans, seas, mountain ranges, countries with plural names or those that contain the words republic, kingdom or states. For example,
- **the** Nile
  - **the** Arabian Sea
  - **the** Netherlands
  - **the** Indian Ocean
  - **the** Alps
  - **the** United Kingdom

#### Omission of the article

We do not use any articles

1. with names of people, states, countries, mountains. For example,
  - The mountaineers conquered Mount Everest.
  - He stays in Paris.
2. with plurals and uncountable nouns when they don't refer to any specific thing. For example,
  - I had bread and butter for breakfast.
  - He writes novels.
  - She likes chocolates.

But,

- **The** breakfast I had yesterday was tasty.
- **The** chocolates she gave me are very expensive.
- **The** novels that I bought last week were very interesting.

#### A. Fill in the blanks with **a** or **an**.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ blue whale can weigh upto 200 tonnes.
2. Vivek wants to buy a cricket bat and \_\_\_\_\_ tennis racquet.
3. The judge wanted \_\_\_\_\_ answer from the lawyer.
4. The judge wanted \_\_\_\_\_ final answer from the police.
5. Mother Teresa was like \_\_\_\_\_ angel. She helped many people.
6. My father has \_\_\_\_\_ football made of glass, and \_\_\_\_\_ old picture of his grandfather in his office.



7. I wish I could see \_\_\_\_\_ unicorn.
8. If you eat \_\_\_\_\_ orange or \_\_\_\_\_ lemon a day, you can protect yourself from getting \_\_\_\_\_ cold.

**B. Fill in the blanks with correct articles.**

1. I don't remember \_\_\_\_\_ last time I saw my friend. It may have been during \_\_\_\_\_ summer holidays. He was wearing \_\_\_\_\_ red shirt. It matched \_\_\_\_\_ red shoes he was wearing.
2. Mumbai is \_\_\_\_\_ interesting city. Yesterday I met \_\_\_\_\_ famous actor at \_\_\_\_\_ restaurant. I asked him for \_\_\_\_\_ autograph. He gave it to me most willingly. I have kept \_\_\_\_\_ autograph in my bag.
3. My mother is \_\_\_\_\_ English teacher. I am \_\_\_\_\_ student in \_\_\_\_\_ same school. We go home in \_\_\_\_\_ same bus every day. My mother allows me to watch \_\_\_\_\_ TV channels that show children's programmes. That's \_\_\_\_\_ best part of my day!
4. I am excited because it is Friday today. I will be visiting \_\_\_\_\_ old-age home in our city, with my friends tomorrow. We will act and sing for \_\_\_\_\_ residents. What \_\_\_\_\_ lovely way to spend \_\_\_\_\_ day for them and for us!
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Rashtrapati Bhavan is \_\_\_\_\_ residence of \_\_\_\_\_ President of India. It is \_\_\_\_\_ massive building in \_\_\_\_\_ heart of New Delhi.

**C. Insert suitable articles in the blanks. Insert a cross (x) where no article is required.**

1. My mother's name is \_\_\_\_\_ Poornima.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ British drink a lot of tea.
3. Some people find \_\_\_\_\_ watching TV more interesting than reading.
4. The people who live in \_\_\_\_\_ Netherlands are called \_\_\_\_\_ Dutch.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ little knowledge is \_\_\_\_\_ dangerous thing.
6. He lives somewhere in \_\_\_\_\_ France.
7. I was in \_\_\_\_\_ pain after I twisted my ankle.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Taj Mahal is one of \_\_\_\_\_ main attractions in Agra.