



ARTICLES

A The words **a**, **an** and **the** are called **articles**. Articles are actually demonstrative adjectives and are used to point out people or things. So they are used before nouns.

► **A** and **an** are indefinite articles while **the** is the definite article.

Since we do not have articles in Indian languages, we should try to understand their use carefully.

B **A/An**

► We use **a** and **an** before countables in the singular number:

a book

a chair

a tree

an apple

an ant

an island

The words *book, chair, tree, apple, ant, island* are all countables in the singular number.

It is clear that we cannot say *a milk, a strength, a tea*, since *milk, strength* and *tea* are not countables. Similarly, we cannot say *an apples, an ants, a trees*. *Apples, ants* and *trees* are countables but they are in the plural number.

► We use **a** before a countable in the singular number beginning with a consonant sound:

a banana

a lake

a song

► We use **an** before a countable in the singular number beginning with a vowel sound:

an egg

an orange

an apple

Note that we have not said *words beginning with a consonant or a vowel*, we have said *words beginning with a consonant sound or a vowel sound*. So if a word begins with a vowel but not a *vowel sound*, we use *a* before it:

a university

↑

(yoo sound)

a European

↑

(yoo sound)

a one-rupee note

↑

(w sound)

Some other words which begin with a vowel but take *a* with them are: *uniform, unit, useful* (thing), *ewe*.

► If some words begin with an unsounded *h*, they also take *an* with them:

an honest boy

an honourable person

Some other words of this type are: *heir, heiress, honorary* (member), *hour*.

► In abbreviations, if consonants begin with a vowel sound, they take *an* with them:

an M.A.

an M.P.

a Ph.D.

a B.A.

(The consonant *m* is pronounced as *em*, so it begins with a vowel sound. The consonant *p* is pronounced as *pee*, so it begins with a consonant sound.)

Note the use of **a** in the following phrases:

to be in **a** hurry

in **a** low voice

a pity

a shame

to have **a** headache

a bad cold

a pleasure

a fever

in **a** loud voice

a noise

a nuisance

Date:- 22 June 2020

Day:- Monday

Class VI.

ENGLISH 1

Chapter 4

ARTICLES

Articles are basically a type of determiners. ~~Determiners~~ Determiners ~~we get~~ cover many classes of words - articles, adjectives and demonstratives.

Types of Articles

There are three main articles - 'a', 'an' and 'the'. These three articles can be divided in two classes.

Articles

Definite
(the)

Indefinite
(a, an)

vowels - a, e, i, o, u.

Rest of the letters in English alphabets are consonants.

- 'a' is used before a countable in the ~~sig~~ singular number beginning with a consonant sound.

a banana, a toy car.

- 'an' is used before a countable in the singular number beginning with a vowel sound.
an umbrella, an egg.

Exercise 1.

Use 'a' or 'an' where necessary.

- i) Children, do not make _____ noise in the corridor.
- ii) We came to _____ lake with _____ island in the middle.
- iii) Ruchi is spending her holidays at Shimla with _____ aunt of hers.
- iv) I can not help you. I have _____ severe headache.
- v) What _____ nuisance! Our train is late by at least _____ hours.
- vi) Mr. Khanna is _____ honourable man and _____ honourable men are always fair and just.

vii) She is very fond of _____ tea. We should give her _____ cup of tea immediately.

viii) It is _____ pleasure to know that your father has been elected _____ M.P.

ix) _____ cheese, _____ butter, _____ iron and _____ milk are substances.

x) We have formed _____ union. Sandeep is _____ active member of our union.

xi) Yesterday I saw _____ European riding _____ elephant.

xii) _____ uncle of mine who is _____ artist was hit by _____ arrow.

xiii) It is _____ tree.

xiv) I have bought _____ umbrella.

xv) He is _____ man who is loved for his _____ kindness.

Answers.

Exercise 8

- 1) little
- 2) a few
- 3) a few
- 4) a little
- 5) The few
- 6) a few
- 7) The little
- 8) few
- 9) a little
- 10) a little

Exercise 9

- 1) wise
- 2) wiser
- 3) wisest
- 4) mightier
- 5) luckier
- 6) easier
- 7) comfortable
- 8) good
- 9) faster
- 10) useful
- 11) better
- 12) older
- 13) elder
- 14) most cunning
- 15) Fewer

Next day → English 1 (to be continued) → 24 June 2020
Answers will be provided in the next English 1 class.
STAY HOME, STAY SAFE.