

Understanding Articles

Articles are a kind of adjective used before different types of nouns., they answer the question “Which one?” There are two types of articles: definite and indefinite.



- **The** is called a definite article. It is used with singular or plural specific nouns, both count and non- count. The word **the** is used with a noun that has been identified or named earlier.

The team is winning the game.
Bring me the notebook.

- The definite article can also be used when referring to something that is unique in nature.

The river crosses the city of Sacramento.
The stars shine in the night.

- The definite article can also be used when referring to the following.

* Names that include the word of the United States of America, the Republic of China.

* Plural names: the Philippines, the Alps

* Abstract nouns: The judge found **the injustice** to be intolerable.

- The can be used with both count and non-count.

the pencils the tables
the team the furniture

- **A** and **an** are the indefinite articles. They are with unspecified singular count nouns. However, they are not used with plural nouns, nor are they normally used with non-count nouns, such as advice or information.

-The word **a** is used a single count noun that begins with a **consonant sound**.

a hero a castle a bridge
a cell phone a university a uniform

-The word **an** is used before a single count noun that begins with a vowel sound.

an hour an ant an eagle
an orange an umbrella an honor

Remember:

When using an, the following noun starts with a vowel or has a vowel sound.

No Article:

We do not usually use article with abstract nouns or non-count nouns referred in a general sense (love, fear) or with the following:

- names of languages (English)
- names of academic subjects (math)
- names of continents (Africa)
- names of sports (basketball)
- names of cities and states (Ohio)
- names of island (Pohnpei)
- names of seasons (fall)
- names of diseases (diabetes)
- names of meals (dinner)