



“बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ”

## JAYOTI VIDYAPEETH WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY, JAIPUR

### FACULTY OF FACULTY OF EDUCATION

<b>Faculty Name</b>	:	JV'n Dr. Suman Devi (Asst Prof./ Asso. Prof./ Prof.) Teaching Methodology and Education
<b>Program</b>	:	Competitive Exams.
<b>Course</b>	:	English Language
<b>Session</b>	:	Articles

#### **Academic Day starts with –**

- Greeting with saying ‘**Namaste**’ by joining Hands together following by 2-3 Minutes Happy session, Celebrating birthday of any student of respective class and **National Anthem**

#### **Lecture Starts with-**

- **Review of previous Session-**. Now tell me the basic components of it?

**Topic to be discussed today-** Today I will discuss about ‘Articles’

- **Lesson deliverance (ICT, Diagrams & Live Example)-**

## What Are Articles?

Articles are those words which define a noun either as specific or unspecific. Read the following examples:

After the long hour, the cup of tea tasted really good.

Here, by using the article “*the*,” we have shown that it was a specific hour that was too long and one specific cup of tea really tasted good.

After a long time, a cup of tea really tasted (particularly) good.

If, we are using the article ‘*a*’. We can create a general statement which implies that any cup of tea would taste good after any long hour.

## Confusion about articles?

In English, there are two types of articles:

One is Definite and the another one is Indefinite. Now let’s discuss about them in more detail.

### The Definite Article

The definite article is ‘The’. It gives the meaning of a noun which is related to one particular thing. For example, your friend might ask, “Are you going to **the** party this weekend?”

Here, the definite article will tell you about your friend who is referring to a specific or special party that both of you know about. The definite article can be used with both – singular and plural or uncountable nouns.

Below are given some examples of the definite article where ‘*the*’ is used in context:

Please give me the book.

Please provide me the red pen; the blue one is too small.

Please provide me the nail.

Please give me the large nail; because it is the only one which is strong enough to hold this painting.

Please give me the hammer and the nail both.

### **The Indefinite Article**

The indefinite article can take two forms. It's the word 'a'. *It comes in front of consonant.* When it precedes a word which begins with a consonant. It's the word 'an' when it is preceded by a word that begins with a vowel. So, in definite article indicates towards a noun that refers to a general idea. Rather than a particular thing.

For example, you might ask your friend, "Should I bring *a* gift to the party?" Its mean, your friend will understand that you are not asking about a specific type of gift or a specific item. Instead, he is asking about a general gift "I am going to bring *an* apple ," Again, here is used the indefinite article because it indicates that she is not talking about a specific or particular apple but she is asking about a general item. But, here, we will use 'an' . Because, the sentence proceeds vowel in the sentence. Your friend probably doesn't even have any pie yet. Therefore, we can say that indefinite article only appears with singular nouns.

Now consider the following examples of indefinite articles used in context:

Please send me a book; In this sentence, it means 'any book' .

Please write an autobiography. In this sentence, there is the use of 'an' because, there is vowel in the sentence . So, in front of autobiography , we will use 'an'.

### **Choosing A or An**

There are a few examples of exceptions for the general rule of using 'a' before words that start with consonants whereas 'an' is used before the words which begin with vowels. For example, the first letter of the word 'honor,' is a

consonant, but it will be pronounced as like vowel. Because, in the sound of vowel, we give more focus on sound rather than an alphabet. So, in spite of its spelling, the word ‘*honor*’ sounds with a vowel sound. Therefore, we use ‘*an*’.

Consider the example sentence below for an illustration of this concept.

My sister is a honest woman.

My sister is an honest woman.

Similarly, when the first letter of a word is a ‘vowel’ but it will be pronounced as with a consonant sound. So, use of *a*, as in the below given sentence.

She is an United States senator.

She is a United States senator.

### **Article Before an Adjective**

Sometimes an article modifies a noun that is also modified by an adjective. The usual word order in this case is –

article + adjective + noun. If the article is indefinite, choose ‘*a*’ or ‘*an*’ based on the word that immediately follows it. Consider the following examples for reference:

Eliza will bring a small gift to Sophie’s party.

I heard an interesting story yesterday.

### **Indefinite Articles with Uncountable Nouns**

Uncountable nouns are nouns that are either difficult or impossible to count. Uncountable nouns include intangible things (e.g., information, air), liquids (e.g., milk, wine), and things that are too large or numerous to count (e.g., equipment, sand, wood). Because these things can’t be counted, you should never use **a** or **an** with them. Remember that the indefinite article we use only

for singular nouns. Whereas, Uncountable nouns can be modified by words like *some*, however. Consider the examples below for reference:

Please give me a water.

It is a wrong sentence because You can not count the water.

Water is an uncountable noun and should not be used with the indefinite article.

Please give me some water.

However, if you describe the water in terms of countable units (like bottles), you can use the indefinite article.

Please give me a bottle of water.

Please give me an ice.

Please give me an ice cube.

Please give me some ice .

Note : Some nouns can be countable or uncountable depending on the context (e.g., hair, noise, time):

We need a light in this room.

We need some light in this room.

### **Using Articles with Pronouns**

Possessive pronouns can help identify whether you're talking about specific or nonspecific items. As we've seen, articles also indicate specificity. But if you use both a possessive pronoun and an article at the same time, readers will become confused. Possessive pronouns are words like *his*, *my*, *our*, *its*, *her*, and *their*. Articles should not be used with pronouns. Consider the examples below.

Why are you reading the my book?

*The* ‘and’ *my* ‘should not be used together because both are meant to modify the same noun.

Instead, you can use one or the other, depending on the intended meaning:

Why are you reading the book?

Why are you reading my book?

### **Omission of Articles**

Occasionally, articles are omitted altogether before certain nouns. In these cases, the article is indirect but not really present. This indirect article is sometimes called a “zero article.” Often, the article is omitted before nouns that refer to abstract ideas. Look at the following examples:

Let’s go out for a dinner tonight.

Let’s go out for dinner tonight.

The creativity is a valuable quality in children.

Creativity is a valuable quality in children.

Many languages and nationalities are not preceded by an article. Consider the example below:

I studied the French in high school for four years.

I studied French in high school for four years.

Sports and academic subjects do not require articles. See the sentences below for reference:

I like to play the baseball.

I like to play baseball .

My sister was always good at the math .

My sister was always good at math .

## Article FAQs

### **What is an article?**

An article is a word that comes before a noun to show if it's specific or general. Specific nouns use the article *the* and general nouns use the article *a* (or *an* if the next word starts with a vowel sound).

### **What is an example of an article in grammar?**

“*The* hammer” refers to only one hammer, but “*a* hammer” refers to any hammer.

### **When should we not use articles?**

You don't use articles with uncountable nouns or possessive pronouns. Certain nouns such as nationalities, school subjects, and sports don't need articles, especially if they refer to abstract ideas.

### **What are definite and indefinite articles?**

Definite and indefinite articles refer to whether they describe something specific or general. “The” is the definite article and “a” and “an” are indefinite articles.