

Articles

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Quick and Handy Grammar Review

ARTICLES

An **article** is a little word that come before a **noun** (a person, place, or thing). English articles include **a**, **an**, and **the**.

A. General Articles: A / An / Ø

Use **a**, **an**, or **Ø (no article)** before a **general** noun. **General** (*indefinite*) means "one of many." In other words, you can't see the noun and/or you don't know which noun it is.

Examples:

- I want to watch **a** movie.
(Any movie is okay. You don't know which movie you want to watch.)
- I bought **a** new bicycle.
(You can't see the bicycle right now.)

SINGULAR NOUNS

Use **a** or **an** before a singular noun that is **general**. *Singular* means **one**. Use **a** before a consonant, and use **an** before a vowel (*a, e, i, o, u*).

- I have **a** cat.
- She has **an** iPhone.

PLURAL NOUNS

Use **Ø (no article)** before a plural noun that is **general**. *Plural* means **two or more**.

- Our family likes animals.
(no article)
- You brought pens and books to class. (*no articles*)

NON-COUNT NOUNS

Use **Ø (no article)** before a non-count (*uncountable*) noun that is **general**. A *non-count noun* is a noun that you can't count because it is too small (*snow, hair*), liquid (*soup, water*), abstract (*love, happiness*), etc.

- He drinks milk every day.
(no article)
- They usually have rice for dinner. (*no article*)

Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

B. Specific Article: The

Use **the** before a **specific** noun. **Specific** (*definite*) means you can see the noun and you know which noun it is.

Examples:

- **The** black-and-white puppy is really cute.
(You can see the puppy, and you know which puppy it is.)
- I am buying **the** dress that is on sale.
(You can see the dress, and you know which dress it is.)

SINGULAR NOUNS

- He likes **the** blue shirt better than **the** green one.
- **The** new rug matches **the** sofa.

PLURAL NOUNS

- **The** students made **the** posters in this room.
- Anyone can use **the** computers at our school.

NON-COUNT NOUNS

- **The** children played in **the** sand all day.
- Here is **the** money that I owe you.

Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

C. Chart

	GENERAL (any one / you don't know which one)	SPECIFIC (a certain one / you know which one)
SINGULAR (1)	A or An (singular count noun) • I gave a flower to my mom.	The (singular count noun) • Pass me the pen that you're holding.
PLURAL (2 or more)	Ø (plural count noun <i>or</i> non-count noun) • I gave flowers to my mom. • I have money in my pocket.	The (plural count noun <i>or</i> non-count noun) • Pass me the pens that you're holding. • I brought the money that I owe you.

D. Tips

- Use **the** when there is **only one** of the noun.
 - the** sun, **the** moon (in the sky)
 - the** mall, **the** library, **the** hospital (in a city)
- Use **the** for the **second mention** of a noun.
 - I bought **a** laptop yesterday. **The** laptop was expensive.
 - I want **a** new puppy. **The** puppy must be toilet trained.
- Use **the** with a *general* noun when the noun is followed by **that** and information that describes it (called an *adjective clause*).
 - The** shoes **that I wear every day** are red.
 - The** TV **that I want to buy** is really big.
- In most cases, use **a/an/Ø** with a *specific* noun when the sentence starts with "**There is/are**" and includes a preposition. Use **the** after the preposition.
 - There is **a** dog on **the** sofa.
 - There are flowers in **the** vases.

Exercise 1

A OR AN

Complete the sentences using **a** or **an**.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John wants <u> a </u> pair of jeans. 2. Silvia wants _____ iPad. 3. Atsuko wants _____ bicycle. 4. Maria wants _____ pair of shoes. 5. Bob wants _____ book. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Alfonso wants _____ Apple computer. 7. Lee wants _____ car. 8. Lisa wants _____ electric guitar. 9. Miguel wants _____ skateboard. 10. Sonya wants _____ umbrella. |
|---|---|

Exercise 2

A, AN, OR Ø

Choose the correct noun to complete each sentence.

Part A

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I want a 2. He wants an 3. She wants | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) money. b) e-reader. c) chocolate bar. |
|---|--|

Part B

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you have a 2. Do you have an 3. Do you have | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) time? b) pet? c) iPad? |
|---|---|

Part C

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. She bought an 2. He bought 3. I bought a | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) orange shirt. b) new iPhone. c) colorful paper. |
|---|--|

Exercise 3

A OR THE

Complete the dialogues using **a** or **the**. Write the correct article on the line.

Dialogue A

Tracy: What did you buy yesterday?

Mike: I bought a _{1.} new shirt.

Tracy: What does it look like?

Mike: _{2.} shirt has _{3.} picture of _{4.} sun.

Tracy: Sounds nice! I can't wait to see it.

Dialogue B

Lee: What did you buy yesterday?

Mika: I bought _{1.} new shirt.

Lee: What does it look like?

Mika: _{2.} shirt has _{3.} picture of _{4.} flower.

Lee: Sounds nice! I can't wait to see it.

Dialogue C

Now practice with a partner! Draw an object on the plain shirt and describe it to your partner.

A: What did you buy yesterday?

B: I bought _{1.} new shirt.

A: What does it look like?

B: _{2.} shirt has _{3.} picture of _{4.} _{5.} .

A: Sounds nice! I can't wait to see it.



Exercise 4

A, AN, OR THE

Complete the story using **a**, **an**, or **the**.

Shopping Spree

Yesterday was Lisa's birthday. Her parents gave her \$200 to spend at the mall.
1.

First Lisa bought necklace. necklace was silver with pink heart.
2. 3. 4.

Next, Lisa bought pair of shoes. Lisa really liked shoes because they
5. 6.

were pink. After that, Lisa went into clothing store. She bought dress.
7. 8.

The saleswoman said dress looked great on Lisa. Can you guess what color
9.

 dress was?
10.

Exercise 5

A, AN, THE, OR Ø

Complete the sentences using **a**, **an**, **the**, or **Ø**.

1. Did I tell you about the TV show that I watched last night?
2. Dave likes reading in library.
3. Yosuke shops for new shirt every week.
4. She needs new glasses.
5. Julia has dog.
6. We usually eat rice for lunch.
7. Chris has motorcycle.
8. There are children in the park.
9. Marco owns e-reader.
10. He climbed tree that is in his backyard.

Exercise 7

A, AN, THE, OR Ø

Class Survey: Ask your classmates these questions, and write their answers in the chart below. Try to speak to a new classmate for each question. Focus on articles when you answer these questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.

#	Question	Classmate	Answer
1	Do you have a pet?		
2	Do you have any brothers or sisters?		
3	Do you have a mobile phone?		
4	Do you want a new car?		
5	Do you want new shoes?		
6	Do you wish you had more money?		
7	What's the name of the movie you like the most?		
8	What's the name of the song you like the least?		
9	Can you tell me about an animal you like?		
10	Can you tell me about a country you want to visit?		

Exercise 8

A, AN, THE, OR Ø

Quiz: Circle the correct article for each sentence.

1. My friend has two daughters.
____ girls want bicycles
for Christmas.
 - a) A
 - b) An
 - c) The**
 - d) Ø
2. Do you want ____ ice
cream cone from the store?
 - a) a
 - b) an
 - c) the
 - d) Ø
3. Jim picked out ____
puppy at the pet shop.
 - a) a
 - b) an
 - c) the
 - d) Ø
4. She bought ____ new jeans.
 - a) a
 - b) an
 - c) the
 - d) Ø
5. Did you see ____
full moon last night?
 - a) a
 - b) an
 - c) the
 - d) Ø
6. There is ____
book on the shelf.
 - a) a
 - b) an
 - c) the
 - d) Ø
7. ____ movie that I saw
yesterday got good reviews.
 - a) A
 - b) An
 - c) The
 - d) Ø
8. See those two shirts?
Mark chose ____ orange
shirt, not the blue one.
 - a) a
 - b) an
 - c) the
 - d) Ø
9. We need ____ paper and
scissors for this project.
 - a) a
 - b) an
 - c) the
 - d) Ø
10. I found ____ ID card
yesterday. The card didn't
have an address on it.
 - a) a
 - b) an
 - c) the
 - d) Ø
11. When she got sick, she
went to ____ hospital.
 - a) a
 - b) an
 - c) the
 - d) Ø
12. There are ____ apple
trees in our backyard.
 - a) a
 - b) an
 - c) the
 - d) Ø