

Using the articles 'a', 'an' or 'the'

DETERMINERS

Determiners are used to introduce, or refer to, a noun. Some examples include:

a dog **an** apple **the** plate **his** toy **my** car **her** scarf

'A', 'an', and 'the' are types of determiners called **articles**. They go **before** nouns.

<p>If the noun starts with a consonant sound, we use a.</p> <p>a glass a bottle</p>	<p>If the noun starts with a vowel sound or a silent 'h', we use an.</p> <p>an orange an hour</p>
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Activity 1

Underline the article in each sentence.

- Today, I saw an alligator!
- Thomas stroked the puppy.
- Nima ate a crunchy apple.
- I would like a pet lizard.
- I ordered the chocolate cake.

BE CAREFUL!

Some exceptions to the rule:

Some words that begin with vowels don't actually start with a vowel sound. For example, "a university" starts with a 'y' sound, which is a consonant sound.

Some words that begin with a consonant don't actually start with consonant sound. For example, "an X-ray" starts with a vowel sound, 'ex'.

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Activity 2

Add the article 'a' or 'an' to complete these sentences.

- Sarah found _____ interesting book at the library.
- Please pass me _____ apple from the fruit bowl.
- There is _____ pencil in the pot
- Can I borrow _____ umbrella? It's raining outside.
- Oli wears _____ uniform to school every day.
- Nima is _____ excellent musician

Activity 3

Sort the words into the table.

Uses the article 'a'		Uses the article 'an'		
candle	bicycle	ear	pen	zebra
bottle	oval	school	tree	hammer
unicorn	hotel	phone	iceburg	eagle
octopus	lemon	arm	earthquake	ant

INDEFINITE ARTICLES

'A' and 'an' are **indefinite articles**. An indefinite article is used when you are talking about a non-specific thing. It's like saying 'any' or 'one of many'.

For example, 'A cat' means you're talking about any cat, not a specific one.

The is a definite article. A definite article is used when you are talking about a specific thing. For example, 'The cat' means you're talking about a particular cat that you and others know or can identify.

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Activity 4

Add 'a', 'an' or 'the' to the sentences below so they make sense

- My sister makes _____ best burgers in the world.
- Can you tell me _____ story?
- Lin lives in a house by _____ sea.
- Sarah wants to be _____ astronaut when she grows up.
- _____ plates are in the kitchen cupboard.
- Would you like _____ cup of tea?

Activity 5

Determine whether to use 'a', 'an' or 'the' before each word. Then, create a sentence using the word and the correct article.

Word	Sentence
animal	
flower	
doctor	
igloo	
hour	
river	