

THE ARTICLE

Part 1

articles

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graph TD; A[articles] --- B[Indefinite a/an]; A --- C[Definite the]; A --- D[Zero ⊗];
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Indefinite
a/an

Definite
the

Zero
⊗

a/an	the	⊗ zero
only with CN Singular	with MN , CN Singular and Plural	With MN and CN Plural
1. The idea of ONENESS (a/an= one)	1.The idea of DEFINITENESS: the= this/that/these/those	1. With MN – to refer to a notion IN GENERAL or to an INDEFINITE AMOUNT of the substance
e.g. I have a cat/ONE cat, not three (in plural –some/several/cardinal number)	e.g. The cat I bought last year is still with me The cats she keeps make her husband’s life a living hell The music they are playing is my favorite	⊗ Silver is a precious metal This is ⊗ lead , not ⊗ silver
2. The idea of referring to a CLASS of things as a whole (a/an= any, every)	2. With <u>CN Singular</u> - to refer to a class as a whole and to distinguish one class from another	2.With CN Plural -to refer to a class as a whole (⊗ = any)

Five Golden Rules (1)

- We NEVER use the zero article before a CN Singular
- We use the zero article before a MN in the generic meaning
- We use the indefinite article if a CN Singular is a predicative

I have **a car**

The car I have is green

I love \otimes **music**

I am **a teacher**

Leonardo is **a genius**

Five Golden Rules (2)

- We use the definite article if a noun is modified by a LIMITING/
PARTICULARIZING attribute
- We use the indefinite/zero article if a noun is modified by a DESCRIPTIVE attribute

The story I told you yesterday did not have a single word of truth

Yesterday he told me **an** *absolutely unbelievable* story

⊗ *Unbelievable* stories may be true sometimes

⊗ *Good* food is expensive

The Indefinite Article

A

is used before a word
beginning with **a**
consonant sound

a man

a red apple

a university

a helmet

a historical event

An

is used before a word
beginning with **a vowel**
sound

an apple

an old man

an uncle

an heir

The Indefinite Article

is used to **introduce a new subject of communication or some new information** (thus becoming the focus of communication or the “rheme” of the sentence)

It **names and classifies** the object, denoting, what kind of object (thing/ person) the speaker has to deal with

- A pretty girl of about eight entered the room
- John has brought me a book that he believes I should start reading right now
- They saw a house with a smooth lawn in front of it
- His wife, a woman of uncertain age, was also present at the ceremony



The Definite Article

denotes that the following noun refers to **a particular object** (thing/ person/ amount)

It may be **unique** or the situation may make it **specific**, but it is hardly the focus of communication (the "theme" of the statement)

- Let's close **the window**, I am afraid of catching a cold.
- **The sun** rises at 8 a.m.
- **The water** in **the bathtub** is tepid, you will be frozen
- Has anyone fed **the dogs**?



Types of attributes

Descriptive (A/AN⊗) Particularizing / Limiting (the)

is used **to describe an object or group of objects, to give some additional information about them**

She wore **a large straw hat of native make**

There was **a wonderful concert at the Victoria Hall we could have gone to**

is used **to point out a particular object** (person/thing/amount) or a number of objects **as distinct from all other objects** of the same class/kind

-Which hat are you going to wear?

-**The large straw one**, it matches my dress best.

We are always limiting(1)

- **Superlatives**
 - Adjectives **limiting by the meaning**
- BUT:**
Are you **an only child?**
(descriptive)
- the ***most irritating*** person/ the best friend/the biggest hit
 - the same/ only/ very/main/principal/ left/right/wrong/ central/ following/ present/ former/ latter/ last/ next etc.
 - The first celebrity/ the fourth room down the corridor
- **Ordinal numbers:**

We are always limiting(2)

some of-phrases:

- The+Common
Noun+of+Proper Name
- The+PART+of+the
WHOLE
- The+ACTION+of+a/the
DOER

The city **of** London

The isle **of** Man

The lake **of** Ontario

The cover **of** a/the book

The roof **of** a/the house

The figure **of** a/the man

The singing **of** birds

The shot **of** a gun

The sound **of** her voice

Articles with nouns in the generic meaning

the	Zero/ ⊗
<p>1. With Class Nouns Singular</p> <p>e.g. <i>The olive</i> grows only in warm climate <i>The airplane</i> has revolutionized travel</p> <p>BUT: ⊗ MAN/WOMAN</p>	<p>1. With Mass Nouns</p> <p>e.g. ⊗ <i>Honesty</i> is the best policy ⊗ <i>Honey</i> is wholesome</p> <p>⊗ <i>Man</i> is a social animal ⊗ <i>Man</i> is a hunter, ⊗ <i>woman</i> is his game</p>
<p>2. With substantivized adjectives</p> <p>e.g. <i>The English love</i> to be with their families at Christmas (the NATION) We are collected money for <i>the disabled</i> <i>The poor ARE</i> always with us (the CLASS of people who are disabled /poor)</p>	<p>2. In set-phrases</p> <p>To be <i>at</i> ⊗ <i>school</i>/ absent <i>from</i> ⊗ <i>school</i> To go <i>to</i> ⊗ <i>church</i> To be taken <i>to</i> ⊗ <i>hospital</i> To work ⊗ <i>day and night</i></p>