

UNIT-3

ARTICLE

The use of the articles: *A*, *An* and *The*

A. The use of **a** and **an**: for the singular countable nouns.

1) The use of 'a'

- In the sense of 'one':

A one rupee note, **a** one eyed man

He eats **a** banana.

I've **a** book by Shakespeare

- In front of the words of countable nouns having both the vowel and the consonant letters at the beginning but with their **consonant pronunciation**:

a cat, **a** rat, **a** one week tour

I've **a** red pen.

He has kept **a** ewe.

They have seen **a** unicorn.

- With units and rates as with the meaning of 'per':

Bitten rice is sold at rupees sixty **a** kg.

Harkaraj earns rupees 10,000 **a** month.

It costs rupees five **a** piece.

- With exclamatory expressions before singular countable nouns:

What **a** charming face!

What **a** beautiful scene!

- With certain expressions of quantity:

a lot of, **a** great deal, **a** couple of, **a** dozen of

2) The use of the article 'an':

- 'An' is used before words beginning with the vowel letters articulating vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u)

an umbrella, **an** egg, **an** owl

- It is used before the vowel pronunciation though the letter is consonant or before silent (h) as:

an hour, **an** honest, **an** heir, **an** honour

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- It is used for the abbreviation having vowel pronunciation as:
an M.R., **an** S.P., **an** M.L.A., **an** X-ray, **an** M.P

Exception: **a** UNDP, **a** U.F.O, **a** VIP, **a** UNO

3) The use of "the"

It is definite article and is used with singular countable nouns, plural countable nouns and non-countable nouns for specific statements.

We use the definite article 'the'

- When we speak of a particular person or thing or one already referred to; as in the following example:

The girl whom you love has already been married.

I've a pen. **The** pen is red in color.

I met **the** prime minister yesterday.

- When a singular noun is meant to represent a whole class:

The dolphin is the second wisest creature in the world.

The banyan is a kind of big tree.

The dog is useful animal for our safety.

- With names of gulfs, rivers, seas, oceans, groups of islands, and mountain ranges:

The Bay of Bengal, **the** Red Sea, **the** Koshi River, **The** Alps, **The** Mt. Everest, **The** Annapurna, **The** Indian Ocean

- Before the names of certain religious holy books:

The Bible, **the** Geeta, **the** Ramayana, **the** Mahabharat, **the** Puranas, **the** Iliad

- Before the unique common names of their kind:

The sun, **the** earth, **the** moon, **the** sea, **the** sky, **the** ocean

- Before superlatives:

The tallest, **the** happiest, **the** most beautiful

- Before musical instruments:

The flute, **the** drum, **the** piano

- Before adverbial comparative:

The more you read, **the** more you learn

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Omission of articles

1. Before a common noun used as general:
 - (a) ✗ man is mortal.
2. Before names of materials:
 - (a) ✗ Diamond is the most glittering ornament
3. Before abstract nouns used in general sense:
 - (a) ✗ Honesty is the best policy,
 - (b) ✗ Virtue is its own rewards.
 - (c) ✗ Knowledge is power.
4. Usually before proper nouns:
 - (a) x Kathmandu is the capital city of Nepal.
 - (b) x Calcutta is a big city.
 - (c) ✗ Darwin is one of the greatest scientists.
5. Before language:
 - (a) I learnt ✗ Hebrew
 - (b) He prefers ✗ English to French.
6. Before names of relations like father, mother, uncle, aunt:
 - (a) ✗ Brother has gone
 - (b) I have met x aunt
7. Before predicative nouns denoting a unique position, i.e., a position that is normally held at one time by one person only; as:
 - (a) He was elected ✗ director of the board.
 - (b) Mr. Yadav became ✗ president of Nepal
8. In certain phrases consisting of a preposition followed by its objects as at home, in hand, in debt, by bus, on food, by night, on earth, by land, at dinner, underground, at interest, on demand, at daybreak etc.
9. In certain phrases consisting of a transitive verb followed by its object: to take offence, to catch fire, to bring word, to take breath, to leave home, to give ear etc.

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