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SECTION-B GRAMMAR

Articles: a, an, the

Articles are words that come before nouns. The articles are **a**, **an**, and **the**.

a) Rules for 'a' and 'an'

We use "**a**" before a singular common noun that begins with a **consonant sound**.

Examples: **a** book, **a** cat, **a** table, **a** tree.

We use "**an**" before a singular common noun that begins with a **vowel sound** (a, e, i, o, u).

Examples: **an** apple, **an** egg, **an** ice cream, **an** orange, **an** umbrella.

Important Note: It's the *sound* that matters, not just the letter. For example, "**an** hour" (because "hour" starts with a vowel sound) but "**a** university" (because "university" starts with a consonant sound /y/).

b) Rule for 'the'

1. We use "**the**" when we are talking about a **specific** noun. This could be something unique, or something that is clear from the context.

"**The** sun rises in the east."

- "**The** moon is bright tonight."

2. We use it before superlative adjectives.

*"She is **the** tallest girl in the class."

*"This is **the** best movie I've ever seen."

3. We use it before ordinal numbers.

- "He came in **the** first place."
- "This is **the** second time I've called."

4. With certain geographical names:

- Rivers: **the** Nile, **the** Amazon
- Oceans and seas: **the** Pacific Ocean, **the** Mediterranean Sea
- Mountain ranges: **the** Himalayas, **the** Alps
- Island groups: **the** Bahamas, **the** Canary Islands
- Deserts: **the** Sahara Desert
- Regions: **the** Middle East, **the** West

5. With the names of countries that are plural or contain "States," "Kingdom," or "Republic."

- **the** United States, **the** United Kingdom, **the** Czech Republic, **the** Philippines

6. When referring to a group of people:

- **the** rich, **the** poor, **the** elderly
- **the** French, **the** British (referring to the people)

7. With musical instruments:

- She plays **the** piano.
- He's learning **the** guitar.

8. With brand names when referring to a specific item:

"Have you seen the new iPhone?"

OMISSION OF ARTICLES (ZERO ARTICLES)

We generally do not use articles in the following situations:-

- **Plural nouns** when talking about things in general.

"Dogs are loyal animals." (not "The dogs...")

"I like books." (not "the books...")

- **Uncountable nouns** when talking about them in general.

"Water is essential for life." (not "The water...")

"Honesty is the best policy." (not "The honesty...")

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- **Proper nouns** (names of people, places, etc.)

"John is my friend." (not "The John...")

"I live in Oman." (not "the Oman")

- **Languages and nationalities** (when referring to them in general).

"She speaks English." (not "the English")

"They are Spanish." (not "the Spanish," unless referring to the Spanish people)

- **Sports and academic subjects.**

"I play football." (not "the football")

"She studies mathematics." (not "the mathematics")

- ***Meals** (in general).

"Breakfast is served at 8 am." (not "The breakfast...")

"What did you have for lunch?"

- ***Abstract nouns** when referring to general concepts.

"Love is a powerful emotion."

"Freedom is important."

- ***Holidays.**

"We celebrate Christmas in December." (not "the Christmas")

I. Read each sentence and circle the article(s) you find:-

1. A dog was barking loudly.
2. The children are playing a game.
3. I ate an apple and a banana.
4. The sun is very hot today.
5. She has a new umbrella.
6. An elephant is a very big animal.
7. We saw the monkeys at the zoo.
8. He is reading a book.
9. The ice cream was delicious.
10. An hour has sixty minutes.

II. Fill in the blanks with "a", "an", or "the".

1. I saw _____ bird flying in _____ sky.
2. She ate _____ mango for breakfast. _____ mango was very sweet.
3. My father is _____ engineer.
4. We went to _____ zoo yesterday.
5. There is _____ cat sitting under _____ chair.
6. He has _____ old car.
7. _____ moon is shining brightly tonight.
8. I would like _____ glass of water, please.
9. She is _____ honest girl.

10. _____ Earth goes around _____ sun.

ANSWER KEYS-

I. Circle the article(s) you find:

1. **A** dog was barking loudly.
2. **The** children are playing **a** game.
3. I ate **an** apple and **a** banana.
4. **The** sun is very hot today.
5. She has **a** new umbrella.
6. **An** elephant is **a** very big animal.
7. We saw **the** monkeys at **the** zoo.
8. He is reading **a** book.
9. **The** ice cream was delicious.
10. **An** hour has sixty minutes.

II. Fill in the blanks with "a", "an", or "the".

1. I saw **a** bird flying in **the** sky.
2. She ate **a** mango for breakfast. **The** mango was very sweet.
3. My father is **an** engineer.
4. We went to **the** zoo yesterday.
5. There is **a** cat sitting under **the** chair.
6. He has **an** old car.
7. **The** moon is shining brightly tonight.
8. I would like **a** glass of water, please.
9. She is **an** honest girl.
10. **The** Earth goes around **the** sun.