

**A, An and The** are called **Articles**. They are **Demonstrative Adjectives**, and point out people or things.

**A and An** are **Indefinite Articles**. They suggest any *person or thing*.

**The** is a **Definite Article**. '**The**' suggests a particular *person or thing*.

### The Indefinite Article

**'A' is used :**

- Before countables in the singular number, e.g.  
a girl, a house, a top, a tree
- Before a word beginning with a consonant, as  
a purse, a chair
- Before a word beginning with a vowel, having a consonant sound, as  
a university, a European, a one-eyed man

**'An' is used :**

- Before a countable noun in the singular number beginning with a vowel sound, as :  
an ant; an axe; an apple.
- Before a word beginning with a silent 'h', as :  
an honest man, an hour
- Before a word beginning with a sounded 'h', as :  
an historical place

### Definite Article

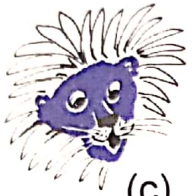
**'The' is used :**

- Before a person or thing already mentioned or well known as or a particular person or thing.

Let us go to **the** cinema

Give me **the** red shirt.

I have lost **the** purse that my mother gave me.



(b) Before a Common Noun in the Singular number, to show a class as :

**The** lion is the king of the jungle.

**The** rose smells sweet.

**The** peacock is our national bird.

(c) Before the Adjective with a Plural notion, to show a class as :

**The** rich rule over the poor.

Always be kind to **the** deaf and **the** dumb.

(d) Before an Adjective in the Comparative Degree to show selection as:

Of **the** two sisters, who is **the** wiser?

Ravi is **the** more intelligent of the two.

(e) Before Superlative Degree of Adjective, as

January is **the** coldest month of the year.

Rita is **the** cleverest girl in the class.

(f) Before Proper Nouns used as Common Nouns, as

Kalidas is known as **the** Shakespeare of India.

Sarojini Naidu is known as **the** Nightingale of India.

(g) Before the names of well known books, newspapers and magazines as

**The** Bible is the holy book of the Christians.

**The** *Times of India* is a popular newspaper in India.

**The** *Outlook* is a popular magazine.

(h) Before the names of unique things as:

**The** earth revolves round the sun.

**The** stars shine at night.

(i) Before the names of some  
Countries and States as :

**The** Punjab is the land of five rivers.

He lives in **the** USA.

(j) Before the names of races, nations and communities. as

**The** Dutch settled in Kerala.

**The** English defeated **the** French.

(k) Before the names of rivers, ocean and mountain ranges as :

**The** Himalayas lie to the north of India.

**The** Arabian Sea is to the west of India.

**The** Ganges is the holy river of **the** Hindus.





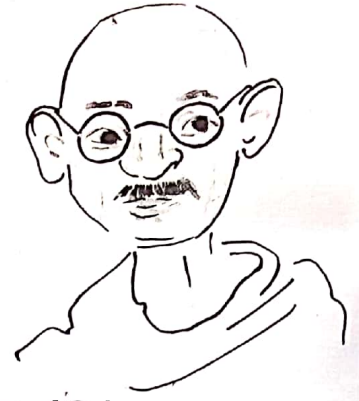
(l) Before the names of trains, ships, aeroplanes, 'famous buildings' and 'well known families', as :

**The** Rajdhani runs on time.

**The** Virat is an aircraft carrier.

**The** Taj Mahal was built by Shah Jahan.

**The** Nehrus' fought for our country.



(m) Before important historical events, as :

**The** first Indo-Pak war took place in 1965.

Gandhiji started **the** Quit India movement.

(n) Before words showing number, weight and measure, as :

Bananas are sold by **the** dozen.

Grapes are sold by **the** kilogram.

(o) Before sobriquets or nicknames, as :

Gandhiji was known as **the** Mahatma of the nation.

Japan is known as **the** land of the rising sun.

## Omission of the Article

(a) No Article is used with Proper Nouns.

Ramesh is a good boy.

Bangalore is the capital of Karnataka.

(b) No Article is used with Abstract Nouns.

Honesty is the best policy.

Beauty is truth and truth is beauty.

(c) No Article is used with such Nouns as gold, silver, water, etc. which name material.

Children should drink milk daily.

Gold is a precious metal.



## EXERCISES



I. Fill in the blanks with a, an or the.

1. The moon shines in the sky.

2. The elephant is the largest of all animals.

3. Rohit is the cleverest boy in the class.

4. The Alps are the highest mountains in Europe.

5. The..... Bay of Bengal lies to the..... east of India.
6. He is talking to a..... minister.
7. The..... tree is next to my window.
8. He went to a..... university in London.
9. A..... one eyed giant was at the gates of the palace.
10. The farmer had an ox, a buffalo and a goat for sale.
11. English is an..... easy language.
12. The..... Ramayana is the..... holy book of the..... Hindus.
13. His mother gave him an..... icecream..
14. The..... buses are full in Delhi.
15. This hotel is the..... best.
16. She gave the beggar a..... ten rupee-note.
17. Have you seen the..... Taj?
18. The..... ant is a very industrious insect.
19. My uncle lives in the..... UK.
20. Brutus was an..... honourable man.

