

Indefinite, Definite,& No Articles

Indefinite Article [a/an]	Definite Article [the]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When you mention people/things for the first time, or talk about them in general. <p><i>I saw a red dress that I really liked. We'd like to buy an apartment in the city.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instead of “one” <i>I've got a cat.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To indicate cost, speed, or frequency <i>ten dollars a pound, four times a day, eighty miles an hour.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For certain numbers <i>a hundred, a thousand, a couple, a dozen</i> <p style="text-align: center;">a/an + singular countable noun a + consonants</p> <p>a boy, a cat, a door, a frog, a girl, a house, a jar, a key, a lemon, etc. exceptions: a uniform, a university</p> <p style="text-align: center;">an + vowels</p> <p>an apple, an egg, an iceberg, an orange, an umbrella exceptions: an hour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the people/things that you talk about were already mentioned or the people you talk to know them. <p><i>I saw a red dress. I want to buy the dress. I've just washed the car (our/this car). We made the beds. (our beds/the beds here).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a general sense, with musical instruments <i>Can you play the guitar? But: I just bought a guitar and a piano.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the object is unique <i>the moon, to/in the North</i> <p style="text-align: center;">the + singular\plural countable noun/uncountable noun</p> <p>I read the book. I read the books. I drank the milk.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">a/an/the + adj. + noun</p> <p><i>I read a great book. I read an interesting book. I read the interesting book(s) that he gave me for my birthday.</i></p>	
No Article	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With abstract nouns (e.g., love, life, beauty), languages, school subjects (e.g., history, etc.) <i>Love is a wonderful feeling.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With materials (e.g., sugar, wine, glass, gold) when used in a general sense. <i>She doesn't take sugar in her coffee. The door is made of glass.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before countries and towns. <i>I live in Vancouver. They moved to Spain.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before school, work, home, bed, hospital, church. <i>She is at home. I came late from work.</i> 	