

ARTICLES

PART - II ENGLISH

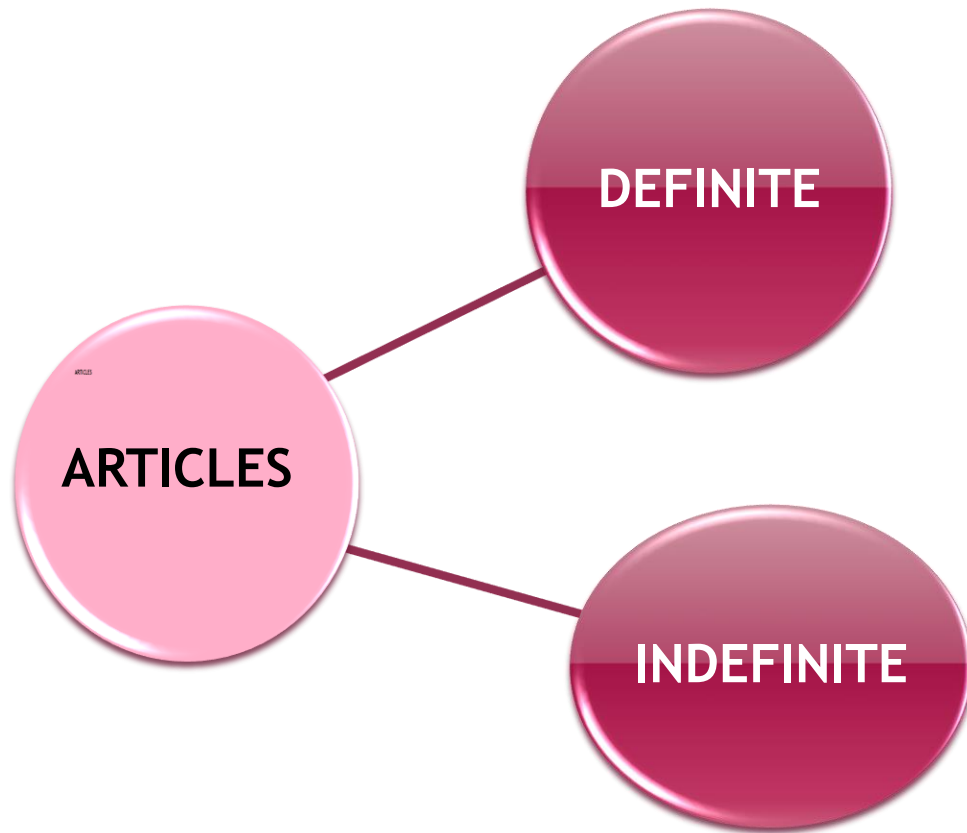
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ARTICLES

DEFINITION:

- ◉ Articles are words that define a noun as specific or unspecific
- ◉ The articles are **A,An,The**

TYPES OF ARTICLES



DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE ARTICLE

- ◉ The **definite** article is the word “**The**”
(in the sense of ‘this’ and ‘that’)

- ◉ The **indefinite** articles are “**A,An**”
(in the sense of ‘one’ and ‘any’)

THE DEFINITE ARTICLE - THE

We use **THE** with:

1. A singular or plural noun when it is clear/obvious which person or thing we are talking about.
 - ⦿ There is a lamp in my bedroom. (we mention the lamp for the first time)
 - ⦿ **The** lamp is next to the desk.

2. Anything which we identify immediately.

- ⦿ We watched **the** new Brad Pitt movie last night.

3. Musical instruments (**the** violin, **the** guitar, **the** drums, **the** flute, **the** piccolo).

- ⦿ She plays **the** piano.

4. Something that is unique or there is only one.

- ⦿ the sun
- ⦿ the moon
- ⦿ the internet.

5. Names of rivers, seas, oceans, mountain ranges and deserts (always in capitals).

- ◉ **The** Mississippi River
- ◉ **The** Black Sea
- ◉ **The** Andes
- ◉ **The** Sahara Desert

6. Directions (cardinal points).

- ⦿ the west
- ⦿ the south-east
- ⦿ the north-west.

THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE - A / AN

We use A/AN with:

1. Singular nouns and the first time we refer to a person, animal or thing.

- ⦿ a child
- ⦿ an elephant
- ⦿ a television

2. We don't use A/AN with possessive pronouns, demonstratives or cardinal numbers.

- ⦿ My shirt is dirty.
- ⦿ This car is expensive.
- ⦿ One person is in the reception.

3. We use ONE (or more) instead of A/AN when the number is important.

- ⦿ There is only one exit from the airport.

A is used when the next word begins with a consonant sound
(b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k etc).

⦿ **a** book

⦿ **a** table

⦿ **a** clock

⦿ **a** university (because the beginning of university sounds
like YOU-niversity)

AN is used when the next word begins with a vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u).

- ⦿ **an** apple
- ⦿ **an** elephant
- ⦿ **an** umbrella
- ⦿ **an** hour (because the H is silent)

ZERO ARTICLE

- ◉ Sometimes it is possible to have a noun phrase with **NO article** the so-called "ZERO article".
- ◉ Example: I eat *rice* every day. ← ZERO article

We use no article with:

1. When we refer to general ideas, **plurals** or **uncountable nouns** we do not use THE.
- ◉ Religion is an important issue. (*NOT* The religion is an important issue)
 - ◉ Mexican food is spicy. (*NOT* The Mexican food is spicy).

2. Names of people, books and plays (unless it is part of the title).

⦿ I have read Romeo and Juliet.

3. Towns, cities, states and countries.

- ◉ Cape Town
- ◉ Montana
- ◉ Vietnam

(Exceptions - The USA, The UK, The Netherlands, The Czech Republic, The Philippines).

4. Lakes, single islands, continents or mountains.

- ◉ Lake Victoria
- ◉ Jamaica
- ◉ Asia
- ◉ Mt Fuji

5. Planets

- ◉ Mars
- ◉ Jupiter
- ◉ Saturn

6. Sports or games

- ⦿ soccer
- ⦿ tennis
- ⦿ skiing
- ⦿ monopoly

7. Meals

- ⦿ breakfast
- ⦿ lunch
- ⦿ dinner
- ⦿ supper