



Articles – are the words
that used before a noun.

a, an, the



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Indefinite Articles

- general things
- they don't point at any particular person or thing. They always suggest any person or any thing.
- they come before singular common nouns.

a, an

Indefinite Articles – a, an

a -> before the consonant sounds.

an -> before the vowel sounds.
(a, e, i, o, u)

Example:

Give **an** apple to eat.

Here, it refers the person wants any apple.

Indefinite Articles – a, an

When the next word starts with a
CONSONANT SOUND

A

a book

a frog

a car

a lemon

a dog

a truck

When the next word starts with a
VOWEL SOUND

AN

an apple

an orange

an egg

an umbrella

an insect

an actor

BE CAREFUL!

The **SOUND** of the letter is important

a house

BUT

an hour

The **H** at the beginning of **hour** is **silent**.

an uncle

BUT

a university

The **U** at the beginning of **university** sounds like **YOU**.

This rule applies to all words after **A** or **AN** (including adjectives, adverbs...)

a cold day

an easy lesson

a very crazy person

an interesting class

Write 'a or an' before these words

1. _____ octopus

9. _____ dog

2. _____ starfish

10. _____ car

3. _____ island

11. _____ apple

4. _____ computer

12. _____ ox

5. _____ old cup

13. _____ zoo

6. _____ ball

14. _____ clown

7. _____ elephant

15. _____ alligator

8. _____ orphan

16. _____ uncle

Definite Articles - the

the -> comes before both singular and plural nouns.

Example:

The book that you gave me was interesting.

Here, it refers to a particular book.

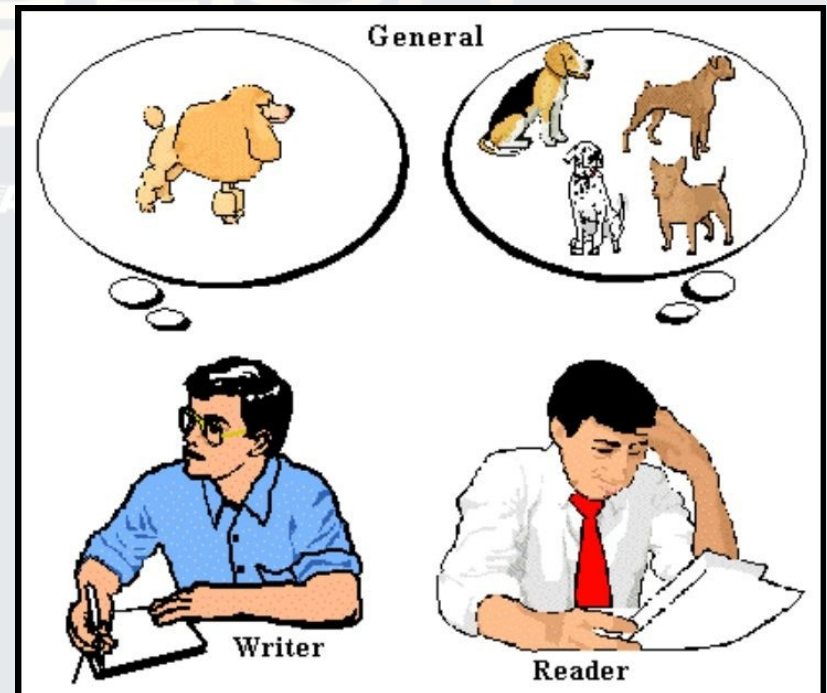
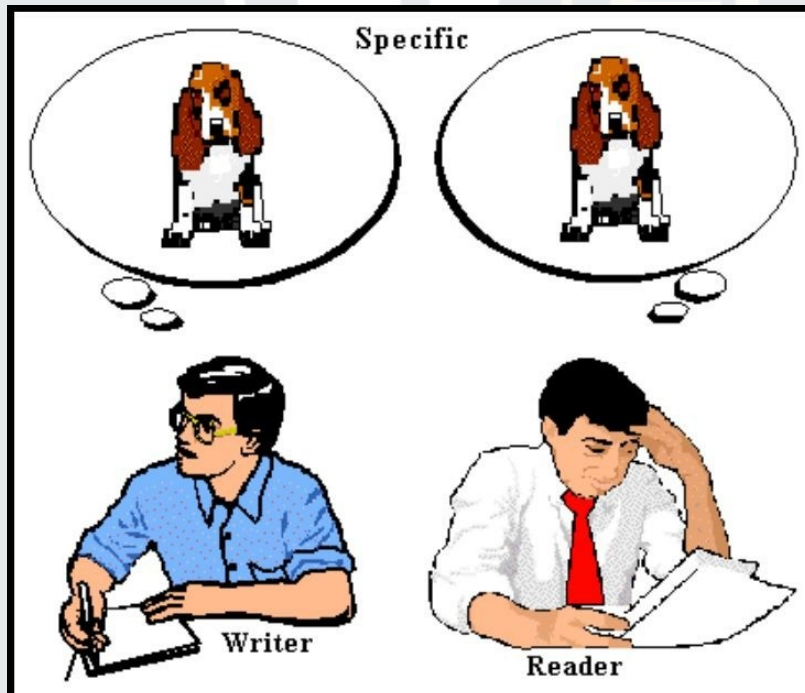
Definite Articles - the

– indicates a particular object, thing or person.

“**The**” will be used when we know about the noun before.

Do you remember **the dog** we had during our childhood days.

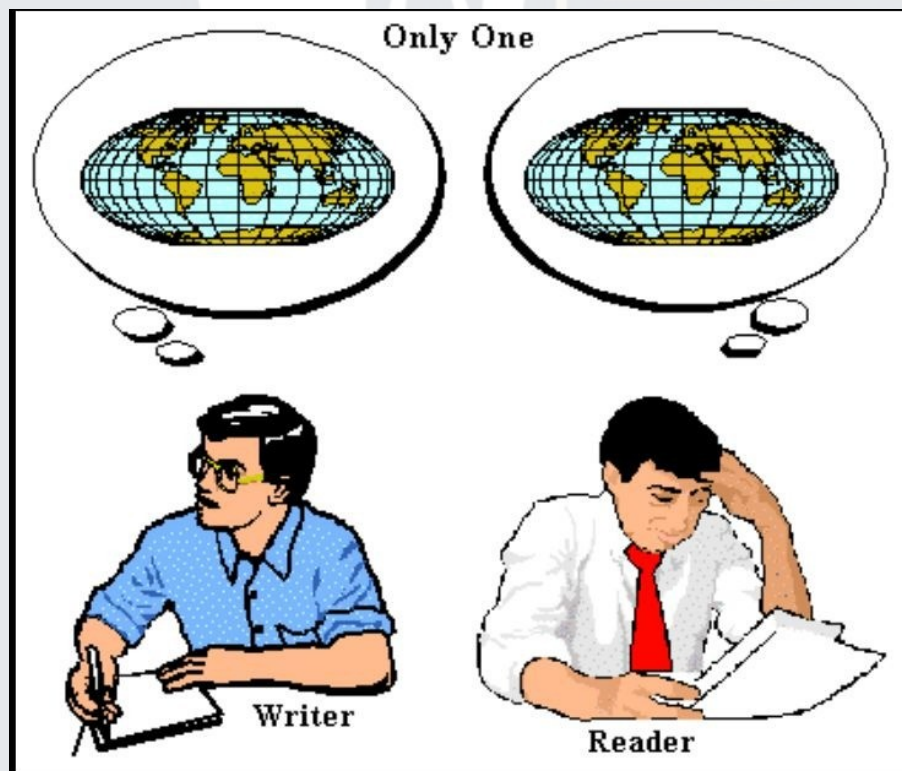
I want to buy **a dog**.



Definite Articles - the

“**The**” will be used when we talk about unique things (only one).

The world is a beautiful place to live.



* something that is unique or only one.

The sun

The moon

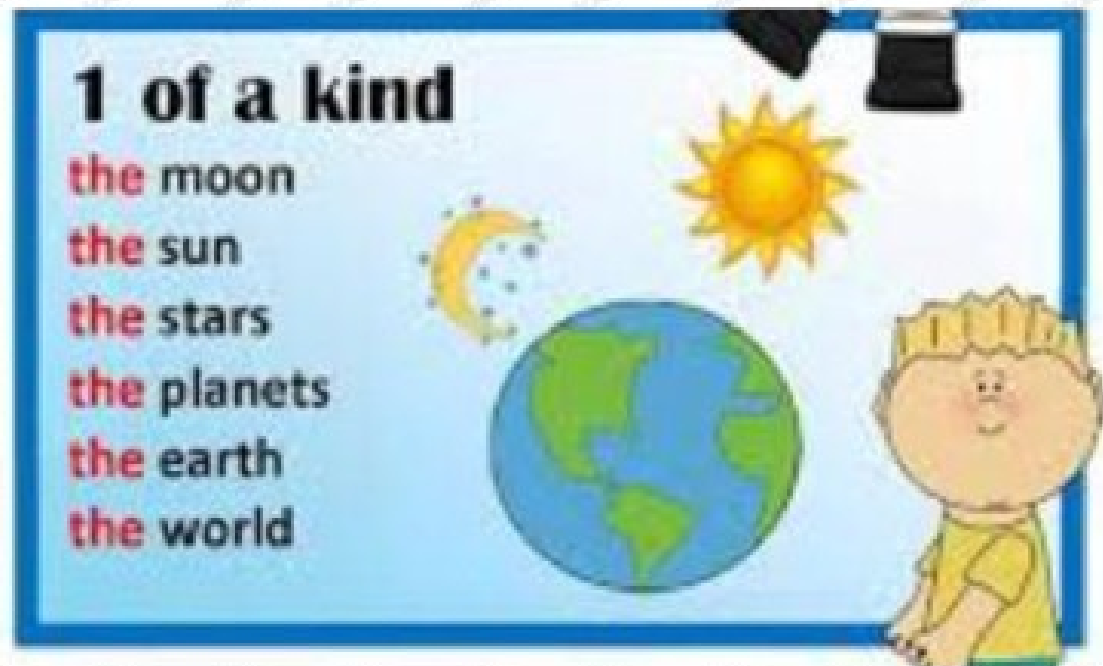
The Red Fort

The Mars

Definite Articles - the

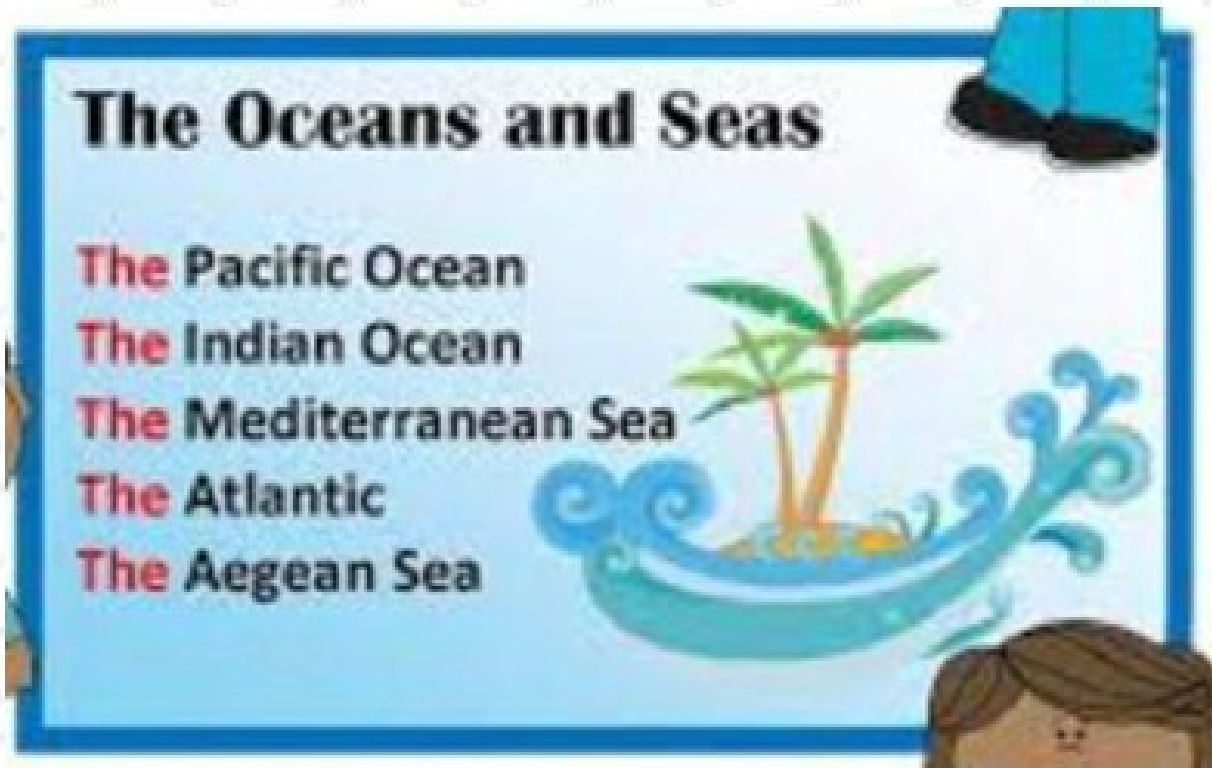
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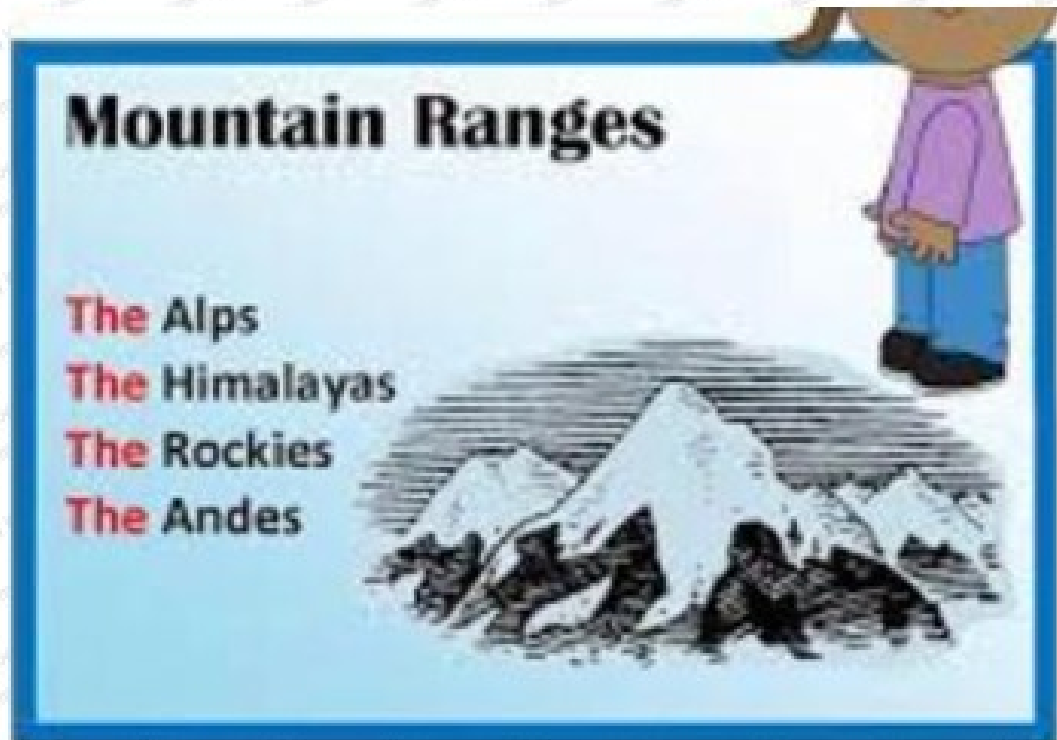
Definite Articles - the

“The” will be used when we talk about the oceans and seas.



Definite Articles - the

“The” will be used when we talk about the mountain ranges.



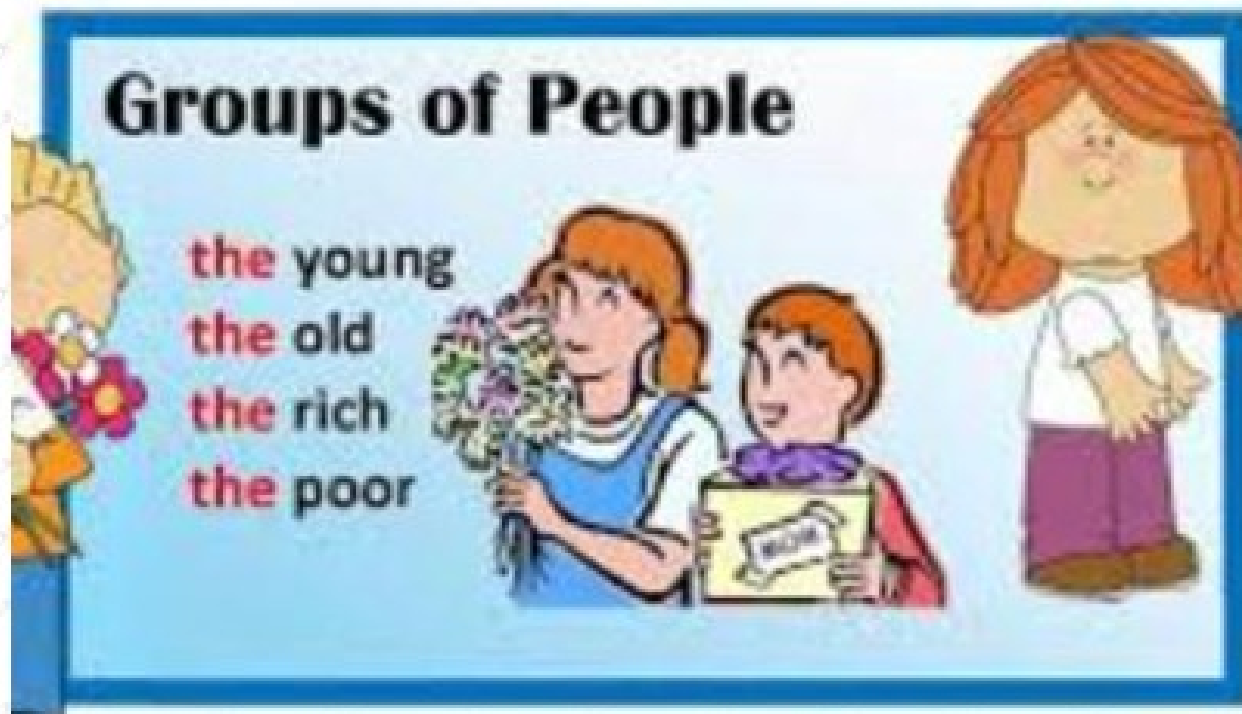
Definite Articles - the

“The” will be used when we talk about some countries.



Definite Articles - the

“The” will be used when we talk about group of peoples.



Definite Articles - the

“The” will be used when we talk about nationalities or families.



Definite Articles - the

“The” will be used when we talk about musical instruments.



Use of the

* before superlative degrees.

Example:

the happiest, the luckiest

* before words like first, last, next.

Example:

the first, the next

Use of the

- * before name of newspaper.

Example: the Times of India

- * before unique things.

Example: the sun, the planet

- * before holy books

Example: the Gita, the Bible

Use of the

* before famous building

Example: the India Gate, the Red Fort

* before direction

Example: the North, the South

* before names of seas,

oceans, rivers, mountain ranges

Example: the Yamuna, the Himalayas

Table of Articles

Number	Indefinite	Definite (noun is specific)
singular	a / an	the
plural	-	the
non-count	-	the

Write the correct article (a/an/the) before each noun

1. _____ flower

9. _____ book

2. _____ apple

10. _____ eggs

3. _____ pig

11. _____ road

4. _____ baseballs

12. _____ ink bottles

5. _____ logs

13. _____ trees

6. _____ oven

14. _____ Bay of Bengal

7. _____ idea

15. _____ laptops

8. _____ pants

16. _____ west

Fill in the blanks with **a, an**

1. He is _____ famous football player.

2. Sethu is _____ hardworking student.

3. Is Ram _____ smart man?

4. A tiger is _____ animal.

5. Is that _____ old book?

6. Is tea _____ beneficial drink?

Fill in the blanks with **a, an**

7. This watch is _____ American brand.

8. This is _____ eraser.

9. Times of India is _____ popular new company.

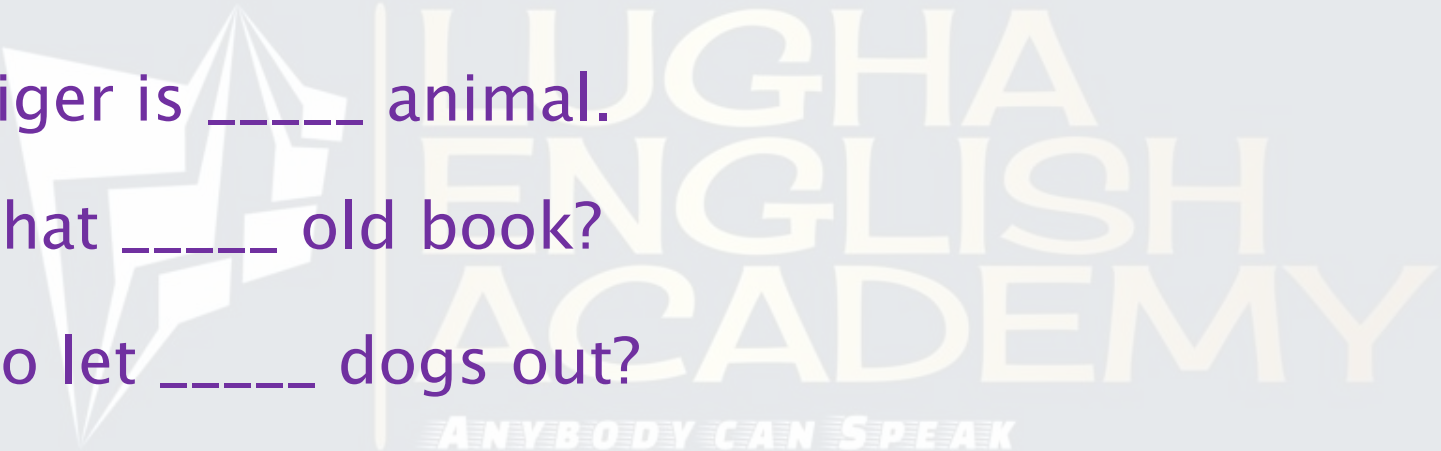
10. Praveen is _____ fisherman.

11. It is _____ honour to meet you.

12. He is _____ child.

Fill in the blanks with **a**, **an** or **the**

1. He is _____ famous football player.
2. _____Earth revolves around the sun.
3. _____ children are playing in the park.
4. A tiger is _____ animal.
5. Is that _____ old book?
6. Who let _____ dogs out?
7. Red pandas live in _____ Himalayas.
8. The stars are shining in _____ sky.
9. Sethu is _____ hardworking student.
10. Is Ram _____ smart man?



Fill in the blanks with **a**, **an** or **the**

1. The Sahara desert is _____ hottest desert in the world.
2. “ _____ Chinese ” are people who live in China.
3. Susan is _____ best student in my class.
4. This watch is _____ American brand.
5. Arun is _____ youngest of all.
6. This is _____ eraser.
7. Is tea _____ beneficial drink?
8. Have you seen _____ lions that are living at the zoo?
9. Praveen is _____ fisherman.
10. It is _____ honour to meet you.

Fill in the blanks with **a**, **an** or **the**

1. Priya is _____ shortest girl in the class.
2. I swam across _____ pacific ocean.
3. Times of India is _____ popular company.
4. Lisa played _____ Guitar.
5. _____ horses have hooves.
6. My sister lives in _____ United states.
7. I have sent you _____ pictures.
8. He is _____ child.
9. _____ Hindu is an English language daily newspaper.
10. Ragu planted _____ trees.

Fill in the blanks with **a**, **an** or **the**

1. India is _____ large country.
2. She is _____ hour late.
3. I have _____ one rupee note.
4. He is _____ European.
5. Once there was _____ king.
6. We arrived on _____ fourth of July.
7. I go to Jaipur once _____ year.
8. Srilanka is _____ island.
9. Honesty is _____ best policy.
10. Brutus is _____ honest man.

Omission of the articles

Before uncountable nouns

We do not use articles before uncountable and abstract nouns used in a general sense.

- Honey is sweet. (NOT The honey is sweet.)
- Sugar is bad for your teeth.
- Wisdom is better than riches.
- Virtue is its own reward.

Note that uncountable nouns take the article the when used in a particular sense.

- Would you pass the sugar? (= the sugar on the table)

Before plural countable nouns

We do not use articles before plural countable nouns used in a general sense.

- Children usually rush to the school.
- Computers are useful machines.

Note that plural nouns take the article the when they are used in a particular sense.

- Where are the children? (Which children? Our children)

Before the names of meals

We do not use articles before the names of meals.

- Mother is cooking lunch.
- Dinner is ready.

We use a when there is an adjective before breakfast, lunch, dinner etc. We use the when we are talking about a particular meal.

- I had a late dinner yesterday.
- The lunch we had at the restaurant was very good.

Before proper nouns

We do not use articles before the names of countries, people, continents, cities, rivers and lakes.

- India is a democratic country. (NOT The India ...)
- Paris is the capital of France. (NOT The Paris ...)

Before languages

We do not use articles before the names of languages.

- Can you speak English? (NOT Can you speak the English?)
- They speak French at home.

Before school, college, university, church, bed, hospital, prison etc.

- His dad is still in hospital.
- We learned English at school.
- He is at university.

The is used before these words when the reference is to the building or object rather than to the normal activity that goes on there.

- I met her at the church. (Here the reference is to the building and not to the activity that is going on there.)
- I went to the hospital to see my friend.

Complete the text with a/an/the



I am in ____ park right now,
____ park is in the north of my city.
I can see ____ woman, ____ woman
has ____ ice cream. ____ ice cream
has 3 balls. ____ balls are blue,
yellow and green. I can also see
____ boy in ____ skate, ____ skate is
color yellow.

In the park, there is ____ girl listening to music, ____ girl wears
____ hat on her head, ____ hat is purple. I can also see a
Japanese woman. ____ woman is wearing a Kimono. Finally,
there is a boy, ____ boy is in a bike; he rides ____ bike fast.

Articles: Exercises

(Remember, if no article is needed, then select the blank option).

1. My mother is —English teacher. I am —student. When I get home from school, I watch — programs on TV. That's —best part of my day. — programs I watch are for —children. I am —child, so I think they are funny.
2. I'm —little excited because it's —Friday. There are — lot of good shows on TV today. —one I usually watch is at 3:30. It's about — animals. Also, I'm excited today because my mother is making ----- rice for dinner.
3. Later, after eating dinner and doing my homework, I go to my room and read —book for 30 minutes. Then I turn off —light and go to —--- bed.

Articles: Exercises

1. Moving to —United States was —most exciting thing I have ever done. I moved last year to —New York. New York is —exciting city, full of — adventure. In fact, I saw —famous actor on — street yesterday!
2. Today, I have —job interview at — financial company. — Company has —offices all over —world. I'm not sure that I have — skills to get hired. I hope so. —company's office is on —Main Street. That's — same street my friend works on.
3. If I get hired, I could meet him after —work for drinks. That would be great. He's from —Scotland. He works 8 hours — day, 5 days —week.

Articles: Exercises

Ms Parrot, (1) ____ most famous lady detective of (2) ____ twenty-first century, was born in (3) ____ United Kingdom in (4) ____ 1960s. Since then, she has been to many countries, including (5) ____ Portugal, Singapore and Australia, and has lived in (6) ____ northern hemisphere and (7) ____ southern hemisphere, as well as on (8) ____ equator. She has never been to (9) ____ Philippines or (10) ____ United States, but she speaks (11) English, French and Portuguese. Like Sherlock Holmes, (12) ____ famous detective, she plays (13) ____ violin, and sometimes practises up to five times (14) ____ day. She is also (15) ____ only person in (16) ____ world to have performed Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture [a long piece of music] in one breath on (17) ____ recorder.

Articles: Exercises

He has been (18) ____ detective for thirty years and claims that although many people think that being (19) ____ detective is (20) ____ piece of cake, detectives generally work very hard and it's not all fun and games. (21) ____ detective is someone who solves mysteries, and (22) ____ people who contact Ms Parrot have some very unusual problems. Little information is available about some of (23) ____ cases she has solved, but quite (24) ____ few of her most famous cases have attracted worldwide attention and she has been offered up to (25) ____ thousand dollars (26) ____ hour to help solve mysteries such as (27) ____ case of (28) ____ Australian owl in (29) ____ uniform. (30) ____ bird laid (31) ____ egg in (32) ____ European nest in less than (33) ____ hour after its arrival. What (34) ____ strange problem!

Articles: Exercises

With great (35) ____ modesty, she has either declined such (36) ____ fee or donated (37) ____ money to (38) ____ poor, or to (39) ____ Grammar Survival Fund, believing that (40) ____ detective should use their skills for (41) ____ common good.



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Articles: Exercises

1. I have two brothers. One, Greg, is still in —college, and —
other, Mike, has already graduated. Mike is — kind of guy
that is very serious. I don't remember — last time I saw
him. It may have been in — August. He was wearing — red
sweater. It matched his — red hair.
2. After — dinner, I usually wash — dishes. My wife hates
doing it. I waste a lot of — water when I do it. That's bad for
—environment, I think.
3. We live near — sea. —most houses in this area are
expensive.

Articles: Exercises

1. When I drive to —work, usually — highways are really busy. If there's —accident during —rush hour, it can be —chaos on the roads.
2. I don't watch —TV. I get — information and — news, etc., from — Internet. I don't often go to — cinema, either.
3. I'm interested in —finance. I heard —Euro is losing value, compared to — US dollar.
4. I like Japan. —crime is infrequent there. When I fly to Japan, I usually fly to —Narita Airport. The last time I was in Japan, I climbed — Mount Fuji. It was fun.
5. I am tall. —Japanese are generally shorter than us.

Articles: Exercises

1. I have —uncle who lives in —home for — elderly. He is — honest man. He used to be — FBI agent. He once saved — one-year-old boy from —fire. He has many interesting stories.
2. He told me that he once met — alien from — space. This alien didn't need —oxygen to live; it didn't have — nose. That's — hard story to believe. I'm not sure he was telling me — truth. Maybe he isn't so honest, after all.
3. —stress can make —life unpleasant. In —day, I work at ----- office. —people I work with are busy, and —work we do isn't easy.

Put in a, an or the wherever necessary. Don't use any article where it is not necessary.

1. My father is ____ M.A. in ____ mathematics.
2. ____ Mumbai is ____ London of India.
3. We are going to ____ cinema.
4. Yesterday I met ____ European playing with ____ boy.
5. I have got ____ headache.
6. ____ Ganga is ____ holy river.
7. ____ Quran is read by ____ Muslims.
8. Rohit is ____ unique boy.
9. He is ____ most intelligent boy in the class.
10. I know how to play ____ sitar.
11. I live in ____ Delhi.

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2. I'm little excited because it's Friday. There are lot of good shows on TV today. I usually watch is at 3:30. It's about animals. Also, I'm excited today because my mother is making rice for dinner.
3. Later, after eating dinner and doing my homework, I go to my room and read book for 30 minutes. Then I turn off light and go to bed.

ANSWERS

1. Moving to United States was most exciting thing I have ever done. I moved last year to New York. New York is exciting city, full of adventure. In fact, I saw famous actor on street yesterday!
2. Today, I have job interview at financial company. has offices all over world. I'm not sure that I have skills to get hired. I hope so. 's office is on Main Street. That's same street my friend works on.
3. If I get hired, I could meet him after work for drinks. That would be great. He's from Scotland. He works 8 hours day, 5 days week.

Answers to Articles Exercise 1 – Passage with correct articles inserted

Ms Parrot, (1) the most famous lady detective of (2) the twenty-first century, was born in (3) the United Kingdom in (4) the 1960s. Since then, she has been to many countries, including (5) 0 Portugal, Singapore and Australia, and has lived in (6) the northern hemisphere and (7) the southern hemisphere, as well as on (8) the equator. She has never been to (9) the Philippines or (10) the United States, but she speaks (11) 0 English, French and Portuguese. Like Sherlock Holmes, (12) the famous detective, she plays (13) the violin, and sometimes practises up to five times (14) a day. She is also (15) the only person in (16) the world to have performed Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture in one breath on (17) the recorder.

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She has been (18) a detective for thirty years and claims that although many people think that being (19) a detective is (20) a piece of cake, detectives generally work very hard and it's not all fun and games. (21) A detective is someone who solves mysteries, and (22) the people who contact Ms Parrot have some very unusual problems. Little information is available about some of (23) the cases she has solved, but quite (24) a few of her most famous cases have attracted worldwide attention and she has been offered up to (25) a thousand dollars (26) an hour to help solve mysteries such as (27) the case of (28) an Australian owl in (29) a uniform. (30) The bird laid (31) an egg in (32) a European nest in less than (33) an hour after its arrival. What (34) a strange problem!

With great (35) 0 modesty, she has either declined such (36) a fee or donated (37) the money to (38) the poor, or to (39) the Grammar Survival Fund, believing that (40) the detective should use their skills for (41) the common good.



1. I have two brothers. One, Greg, is still in college, and the other, Mike, has already graduated. Mike is the kind of guy that is very serious. I don't remember the last time I saw him. It may have been in August. He was wearing a red sweater. It matched his red hair.
2. After dinner, I usually wash the dishes. My wife hates doing it. I waste a lot of water when I do it. That's bad for the environment, I think.
3. We live near the sea. Most houses in this area are expensive.

1. When I drive to work, usually highways are really busy. If there's accident during rush hour, it can be chaos on the roads.
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3. I'm interested in finance. I heard Euro is losing value, compared to US dollar.
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3. can make life unpleasant. In day, I work at office. people I work with are busy, and work we do isn't easy.

Answer:

1. an, X 2. X, the 3. the 4. a, a 5. a
6. The, a 7. The, the 8. a 9. the 10. the
11. X

