

Articles

A/AN (indefinite article)

- We use **a** before words that start with a consonant sound.

Examples: a doctor, a glass, a red apple

- We use **an** before a vowel (a/e/i/o/u).

Examples: an artist, an umbrella, an old house

There are some exceptions:

an hour (*h* is not pronounced: an *hour*)

a university (pronounced *yuniversity*)

a European country (pronounced *yuropean*)

- another (= **an** + other) is one word

Example: Would you like another biscuit?

We use **a/an**:

- when we say what a thing or a person is.

Examples: Chichester is a city in England.

A dragonfly is an insect.

Ben is a very shy boy.

Cricket is a very popular sport in the UK.

- for jobs, etc.

Examples: I'm a teacher.

'What does Daniel do? He's an actor.

Johannes Vermeer was a Dutch painter.

Are you a student?

We need an accountant for our company.

THE (definite article)

We use **the** with:

- singular and plural countable nouns.
*Examples: **the** house, **the** windows, **the** cakes*
- unique things (where there is only one).
*Examples: **the** world, **the** White House, **the** Indian Ocean, **the** sun.*
- superlatives.
*Example: Blue whales are **the** largest animals in the world.*
- groups of countries or countries which are plural.
*Examples: **the** United Kingdom, **the** European Union, **the** United States of America, **the** Philippines.*
- locations.
*Examples: in **the** middle, on **the** left/right, in **the** north/south/east/west.*
- musical instruments.
*Example: I play **the** saxophone.*
- professional bodies (the police, the fire brigade, etc).
*Examples: My sister is a soldier. She's in **the** army.
Do you trust **the** police?*
- **the** radio, **the** Internet.
*Example: I listen to **the** radio on **the** Internet.*