



8

Articles

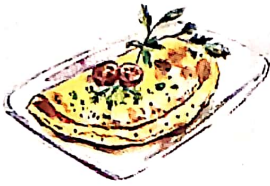


THINK



Critical Thinking

Fill in the blanks with a or an.



1. an omelette



2. a hammer



3. a yacht



4. a mouse



5. a peach



6. an itchy sweater



7. an architect



8. a box



9. an old desk

LEARN

You know that a and an are two of the three **articles** in the English language. We write a before a singular noun beginning with a **consonant sound** and an before a singular noun beginning with a **vowel sound**.

Now, read these sentences carefully.

- A European lady taught us carols this year.
- We spent an hour practising with her every day.

We use **a** before **European**, which begins with a vowel that has a consonant sound (y). We use **an** before **hour**, which begins with a consonant (h) that is silent.



PRACTISE

A. Fill in the blanks with **a** or **an** where necessary. Put a cross (X) if no article is needed.

1. Add an onion and a tomato to the salad.
2. You have to take an aeroplane and then a train to reach my house.
3. We have to think of an idea for the essay by tonight.
4. Fill X water in a glass and bring it here.
5. This is an interesting book by a university professor.
6. To fix the nail on the wall, we need a hammer.

LEARN

Notice the nature of the things referred to by **a** and **an** in these sentences.

- I want **a** student to collect all the answer scripts.
- Munni will need **an** hour to complete her project.

A and **an** are used if we are not talking about a specific noun.

Now, notice the use of the third article, **the**, in these sentences.

- I want **the** students in the first row to collect all the answer scripts.

The refers to a specific noun (or nouns).

- Munni is free for **an** hour now. She will need **the** hour to complete her project.

The refers to a noun (or nouns) mentioned earlier.

- **The** tallest mountain range in the world is **the** Himalaya.

The refers to a proper noun that is one of a kind. Some more examples are:

- **the** Sun, **the** Moon, **the** sky

- the Konark Sun Temple, the Jama Masjid, the Rashtrapati Bhavan
- the Narmada, the Pacific Ocean

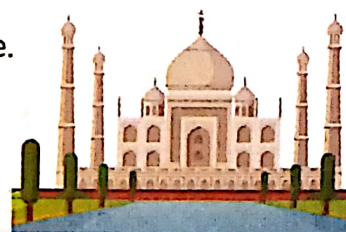
The can be used for singular and plural as well as countable and uncountable nouns.

PRACTISE

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



1. An ant fell into the pool of water.
2. Seema is the first girl in the class to solve the puzzle.
3. We had to wait for an hour for the bus.
4. The Yamuna flows beside the Taj Mahal in Agra.
5. Have you met the principal today?



C. This is a popular story written by Aesop, but all the articles are missing. Fill in the blanks with a, an or the wherever required.



The Fox and the Stork

A fox had a bone stuck in his throat. He hired a stork for a large sum of money to put her head into his mouth and draw out the bone. When the stork had pulled out the bone and asked for the promised payment, the fox, grinning and grinding his teeth, exclaimed, 'Why, you have surely already had a sufficient reward! I have allowed you to draw out your head safely from the mouth and jaws of a fox.'



PLAY



Cross-Curricular
Learning/Subject
Integration

Divide the class into four groups. Your teacher will write a, an or the on the board. She/He will then read out any one of these topics.



home

food

sports

history

nature

Each group has to come up with a word related to the topic that can be used with the article. For the, you can only use a proper noun that is one of a kind.