

8 Articles

THINK



Critical Thinking



Knowledge of India



Global Awareness

Complete the table with words of your choice.

1. a river the Kaveri



2. a monument the Taj Mahal

3. a sea the Arabian Sea



4. a ship the Titanic

5. a star the Sun



6. a mountain the Himalayas

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Indefinite Articles: A and An

You know that **a** and **an** are **indefinite articles** and **the** is the **definite article**. Indefinite articles are used for countable, singular, common nouns that are being mentioned for the first time.

A is used before words that begin with consonant sounds.

- **a** dog, **a** knife, **a** university, **a** red umbrella, **a** sour orange

An is used before words that begin with vowel sounds.

- **an** amazing dog, **an** unknown university, **an** umbrella, **an** hour, **an** orange

PRACTISE

A. Fill in the blanks using **a** or **an**.

1. This is a picture of animals.
2. There is a camel in the picture.
3. Can you see an elephant?
4. I can also see a kangaroo.
5. There is an owl perched on the camel's hump.
6. An alligator is lying with its mouth open.
7. A white ram is standing behind the alligator.
8. Look out! There is a lion smiling next to them.
9. A giraffe with its long neck is the tallest of the animals.



B. Myra's father sent her out to buy some things from the nearby grocery store and a stationery shop. Fill in the blanks in Myra's list with **a** or **an**. Put a cross (X) where no article is required.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ 1. <u>a</u> notebook | ☐ 2. <u>an</u> eraser |
| ☒ 3. _____ pens | ☐ 4. <u>an</u> ink pot |
| ☒ 5. _____ orange chart papers | ☒ 6. _____ unicorn stickers |

7. _____ sugar

8. _____ milk

9. _____ eight eggs

10. _____ apple juice

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Definite Article: The

The definite article **the** can be used for specific nouns that might be singular, plural, countable or uncountable. Read the table given below. It shows the uses of the definite article.

a noun that has been mentioned earlier

- **A** boy came to meet me. **The** boy gave me a note.

when we mean a particular person or thing

- **The** book you wanted has arrived.

when it is very clear to the speaker and listener what is being referred to

- **The** bell is ringing.

(Here, we know which bell is ringing)

names of rivers, oceans, seas, bays, gulfs

- **the** Amazon, **the** Arctic Ocean, **the** Black Sea, **the** Bay of Bengal, **the** Gulf of Mexico

names of mountain ranges, island chains, specific geographical spots

- **the** Nilgiris, **the** Philippines, **the** Equator

names of famous buildings, ships, planes, trains, books, etc., that are unique or one of a kind

- **the** Qutb Minar, **the** INS Talwar, **the** Boeing 707, **the** Rajdhani Express, **the** Mahabharata, **the** India Today

people from the same country, region or tribe

- **the** English, **the** Punjabis, **the** Maori

superlatives

- **the** brightest light, **the** most melodious voice

with the names of some countries

- My brother is studying in **the** USA, **the** UK, **the** UAE.

ordinals

- **the** ninth president, **the** billionth baby, **the** twenty-ninth of February

cardinal directions

- **the** East, **the** South

REMEMBER

We don't usually use **the** with:
proper nouns

- the Gandhi, the Mount Everest
- uncountable nouns, unless a specific thing is being talked about
- Milk is good for health.
 - The milk in the jug is fresh.

PRACTISE

C. Fill in the blanks using **a**, **an** or **the**. Put a cross (X) where none of them is required.

1. London is on the River Thames. It is a bustling city. A number of famous people have lived there. The famous poets, William Blake and John Milton, worked there. For a long time now, London has been the capital of England.
2. Asoka was once an ambitious and cruel king. He had a change of heart after the Kalinga War. The sight of thousands of dead soldiers affected him deeply. He gave up all bloodshed. His message became one of X peace. Till his dying day, Asoka worked to improve the lives of his subjects.

D. Complete this passage by using **a**, **an** or **the**.

The Bear and the Bees

A bear came across a log near an apple tree where a swarm of bees had nested to make honey. As he snooped around, a single little bee flew out of the log to protect the swarm. The bee knew the bear would get angry if it were disturbed and a single bee is no match for an angry bear. But afraid that the bear would have all the honey, the little bee stung him sharply on the nose and flew back into the log.



E. Rewrite the sentences in which articles are used incorrectly.



1. The books you ordered yesterday have arrived.
2. Rupali bought ~~the~~ sugar, milk and butter from the shop.
3. I met some tourists from the United States of America.
4. Did you read the article about ~~the~~ Mahabharata?
5. ~~The~~ Nile is ~~a~~ ^{the} longest river in the world.
6. Our school took us on a trip to ~~a~~ ^{the} Red Fort.
7. We took the Rajdhani Express to travel to Bangalore.
8. After taking ~~a~~ ^{the} first right, we went straight and took ~~a~~ ^{the} third left.

Tips & Tricks

We say—
the University of Allahabad
but Banaras Hindu University

F. Rewrite the sentences using articles where necessary.



1. I am not sure if bank will be open today.
I am not sure if the bank will be open today.
2. My mother bought two and half kilos of potatoes.
My mother bought two and a half kilos of potatoes.
3. What beautiful exhibition it was!
What a beautiful exhibition it was!
4. Arabian Sea is on western coast of India.
The Arabian Sea is on the western coast of India.
5. I found hundred rupee note on the road.
I found a hundred rupee note on the road.
6. He has degree in history from University of Chicago.
He has a degree in History from the University of Chicago.
7. My brother studies at Delhi University.
My brother studies at Delhi University.

