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Article Rules

An article is a word that combines with a noun/s and helps to determine whether a noun in any sentence or phrase is specific or general. There are two types of articles in English, Definite article (The) and Indefinite article (A, An).

Article Rules for the definite article 'The'

Rule 1

The very basic rule of the article says that the article the is used before a singular or plural noun, which is specific. It indicates a particular thing/s or person/s in case of a common noun.

Rule 2

Article The is used when the listener knows what the speaker is talking about.

Rule 3

The is used to generalize the whole class or group.

Rule 4

The is used for geographical points on the globe.

Rule 5 -

The is used for the nouns that cannot be counted

Rule 6

The is used with geographical nouns, depending on the size and plurality of the noun. 'The' must precede the names of oceans, rivers, group of islands, lakes, mountains, countries with united states or islands, etc.

Rule 7

The is mandatorily used for things that are only one of a kind in the universe

Rule 8

Use THE with nouns modified by ranking or ordering expressions such as “the first”, “the second”, “the third”, “the next”, “the last”, “the previous”, “the following”, “the penultimate”, etc

Article Rule for Indefinite Article ‘A’ and ‘An’

Rule 1

The article ‘a’ is used before a consonant word or any vowel with a consonant sound. Similarly, the article ‘an’ is used before the words beginning with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) or the letter of a consonant word with a vowel sound.

Rule 2

A singular common noun always requires an article ‘a’ or ‘an’, but a plural common noun does not require any article or can have ‘the’ to particularise that noun

Rule 3

A/An is used to make a Proper noun a common noun. Proper nouns do not take articles but to make them common nouns, a/an is used

Rule 4

Indefinite article ‘a’ or ‘an’ is used to refer to numbers sometimes.

Rule 5

The indefinite article (a/an) precedes the descriptive adjective

Rule 6

The indefinite article is used with the determiners (few, lot, most)

NO Article Rule

- We usually use no article to talk about things in general.
- We do not use an article when talking about sports and games
- Do not use article before the names of countries unless the name suggests that the country is made up of smaller units or constituent parts.
- Do not use article before the name of language
- Do not use article before the names of railway stations when they are also place names
- Do not use article before the names of meals if they refer to the meals generally, as a part of the daily routine.
- Do not use article before noun + number.

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