

KALPAVRUKSHA MODEL SCHOOL

Sub: English

Date: 29.6.21

The Indefinite Article – A / AN

We use A/AN with:

1. Singular nouns and the first time we refer to a person, animal or thing.

- a child
- an elephant
- a television

2. Singular countable noun in a general sense.

- a glass of water
- a litre of oil
- a few books
- a little more time
- a one-rupee note

3. “A” is used before the noun which begins with a consonant sound (b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z)

- a book
- a table
- a clock
- a university (because the beginning of university sounds like YOU-niversity)

4. “AN” is used before the noun which begins with a vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u).

- an apple
- an elephant
- an umbrella
- an hour (because the H is silent)
- an honest man

The Definite Article – THE

We use THE with:

1. “the” is used before noun (singular or plural) (countable or uncountable) in a particular sense (which person or thing we are talking about).

- the schools
- the girl’s hostel

2. “the” is used when a particular noun is repeated in a sentence/ paragraph.

- There is a lamp in my bedroom. (we mention the lamp for the first time)
The lamp is next to the desk.
- A man was walking on the road. The man was carrying an umbrella. The umbrella was torn.

3. Musical instruments (the violin, the guitar, the drums, the flute).

- She plays the piano.

4. Something that is unique or there is only one.

- the sun
- the moon
- the internet.

5. Names of rivers, seas, oceans, mountain ranges and deserts (always in capitals).

- the Ganga River
- the Black Sea
- the Mount Everest
- the Sahara Desert

6. Directions (cardinal points).

- the west
- the south-east
- the north-west.

7. Before names of countries which begin with the word “United”.

- The United States of America

8. Before names of holy books.

- the Bible
- the Gita

9. Before group of people belonging to a country.

- the Indians
- the Europeans

Note: When “the” is not used.

- Before proper nouns like names of people, cities, countries, villages.
- Before names of subjects of study or languages (eg. Maths, English)
- Before names of people.
- Before names of people of days of the week or months of the year.

We don't use articles “a” or “an” before

- Uncountable nouns such as a news, luggage, milk, water, tea, glass, wood etc.

Examples:

1. Indefinite article “a”:

- a. I bought a new car today.
- b. Ashoka was a great emperor.
- c. A thick book is on the table.
- d. Give me a glass of water.
- e. He is studying in a university.

2. Indefinite article “an”:

- a. He gave me an inkpot.
- b. Suma is late for an hour.
- c. My teacher welcomed an honorable guest Mr John on the stage.
- d. He is an Indian, but his wife is an American.
- e. My brother bought an umbrella for me.

3. Definite article “the”:

- a. Mount Everest is the highest peak in the world.
- b. This is the girl who got the first rank.
- c. New Delhi is the capital of India.
- d. The earth moves around the sun.
- e. We read the Bible every day.

