

Vidya Bhavan

Balika Vidyapith, Lakhisarai

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By : R. N. Singh

ARTICLES

The words a or an and the are called **Articles**. They come before nouns.

104. There are two Articles-a (or an) and the.

105. A or an is called the **Indefinite Article**, because it usually leaves indefinite the person or thing spoken of; as,
a doctor; that is, any doctor.

The is called the **Definite Article**, because it normally points out some particular person or thing, as,
He saw the doctor: meaning some **particular doctor**.

The indefinite article is used before singular countable nouns, eg
a book, an orange, a girl.

The definite article is used before singular countable nouns, plural countable nouns

and uncountable nouns, e.g
the book., the books, the milk

Use of A or An

The choice between a and an is determined by sound. Before a word beginning with a vowel sound an is used; as,

an ass, an enemy, an ink-pad, an orange, an umbrella, an hour, an honest man, an heir.

It will be noticed that the words hour, honest, heir begin with a vowel sound, as the initial consonant h is not pronounced.

Before a word beginning with a consonant sound a is used; as,

a boy, a reindeer, a woman, a yard, a horse, a hole,

also a university, a union, a European, a ewe, a unicorn, a useful article;

because these words (university, union, etc.) begin with a consonant sound, that of yu. Similarly we

say,

a one-rupee note, such a one, a one-eyed man.

because one begins with the consonant sound of w

Some native speakers use an before words beginning with h if the first syllable is not stressed.

An hotel (More common: a hotel)
an historical novel (More common: a historical novel)

EXERCISE

Fill in the blanks with 'A| An where necessary:

1. apple fell from tree.
- 2Italian came to see me
.. hour ago.
3. Copper is..... useful metal.
4. He is..... honest.
5. The children found egg in the nest.
6. He bought.... horse, ox and
buffalo.
7. Mohan looks as stupid as owl.
- 8 Have you..... cigarette?
9. There is..... instrument box on the table.
10. She is .. untidy girl.
11. The Ganges is sacred river.
12. aeroplane flies in the sky.
- 13.ant ant is..... . insect.
14. He is..... Indian but his wife is.....
European.
15. elephant is..... big animal.
16. Maneshwar Thakur is..... honour to
his profession.

17. umbrella is useful thing.
18. She saw..... ugly boy riding on ass.
- 19..... handkerchief is made
ofpiece of cloth.
20. honest man is liked by all.