

HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW ABOUT ARTICLE ?

Are they really important?



ARTICLE made Simple for You! What is an article?

An article is a word that modifies or describes the Noun. It is used before the noun to show whether it refers to something specific or not. So, in a way, articles can also be described as a type of adjectives as they also tell us something about the nouns, like adjectives.

Types of Articles

There are two types of Articles in the English language. They are as follows:

Definite article :

Definite means to be clear, exact or obvious about something. It is called definite because it is used in relation to a particular thing or person. "The" is the definite article in English, which is used to refer to particular nouns, the identities of which are known. The definite article indicates that the noun is specific. The speaker talks about a particular thing.

For example :

- The cat sat on the couch.
- The dog attacked me and ran away.

Please note:

Notice how the reference is not left indefinite in both the sentences. It is clear that **a particular cat sat on the couch in the first sentence** and **a specific dog that attacked the speaker is being spoken about in the second example.**

Indefinite articles :

Indefinite means something which is not clear, obvious or exact. They are called indefinite because the identity of the thing or person being spoken about is left unclear or indefinite. The indefinite article indicates that the noun is not someone or something in particular. The speaker talks about any one of that type of things. The indefinite articles in English are "a" and "an."

For example :

- Do you have **a** pencil?
- I want to have **an** apple.

Notice how the speaker **is not asking for a particular pencil or apple, but any pencil or apple in the above sentences.**

THE GREAT DIVIDE



The difference between **a & an** Indefinite articles 'a/an' are used as follows:

'A' is used before a word beginning with a consonant sound. Consonant letters in the English alphabet are **B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R, S, T, V, W, X, Y, Z.**

- For example: **A** boy, **a** cat, **a** dog, **a** fight, **a** gym, **a** horse, **a** joke, **a** kite, **a** lion, **a** mirror, **a** noise, **a** pin, **a** quilt, etc.

'An' is used before a word beginning with a vowel sound. Vowel letters in the English alphabet are **A, E, I, O, U.**

- For example: **An** apple, **an** elephant, **an** idiot, **an** orange, **an** umbrella, etc.

Note here that **the usage is on the basis of sound and not only the letter the word starts with.**

- For example: "**An** hour" , "**An** honest man" , "**A** one eyed dog"

Do these seem wrong to you?



They're not and the reason is that the '**usage is on the basis of sound**'. The words '**hour**' and '**honest**' both begin with **a vowel sound**, as the consonant '**h**' is not pronounced. Similarly, the word '**one**' begins with the consonant sound of '**w**' and hence is written as '**a one eyed dog**', not '**an one eyed dog**'.

Also, remember that we use "**a**" and "**an**" only before a singular noun. We can't use "**a**" and "**an**" before a plural noun.

For example :
A book – correct
A books – incorrect
An egg – correct
An eggs – incorrect

HELP TIPS

Tips to remember the differences in a nutshell

Ø **a** + singular noun beginning with a consonant : **a** bag; **a** pen, etc.

Ø **an** + singular noun beginning with a vowel: **an** egg; **an** orphan, etc.

Ø **a** + singular noun beginning with a consonant sound: **a** user (sounds like 'yoo-zer,' i.e., gives a 'y' sound, so 'a' is used); **a** university; **a** European, etc.

Ø **an** + nouns starting with silent 'h': **an** hour; **an** honest man, etc.

Please note:

These rules also apply in Acronyms.

For example:

- He is **a** **DU** (Dhaka University) student.
- He is **an** **IIT** (Indian Institute of Technology) graduate.

The rule also applies when acronyms start with consonant letters but have vowel sounds.

For example:

- She is **an** **MBA** (Master of Business Administration).

When/if the noun is modified by an adjective, the choice between a and an depends on the initial sound of the adjective that immediately follows the article.

For example:

- **a** beautiful umbrella
- **an** unusual situation
- **a** European country (pronounced as 'yer-o-pi-an,' i.e., sounds like consonant 'y')

TEST 1 LEVEL 1



Fill in the correct article (A, AN or THE) where necessary–or leave blank !

- _____ modern life is stressful.
- What's _____ capital of your country?
- _____ doctor earns more than _____ teacher.
- Do you know who invented _____ computer ?
- Have you seen _____ newspaper? I can't find it anywhere.
- Is this _____ first time you've stayed at _____ Hilton ?
- Is _____ Nile or _____ Amazon _____ longest river on _____ earth ?
- Several million visitors _____ year are attracted to _____ ski slopes of _____ Alps.
- I'll meet you outside _____ post office. I'll be there in _____ quarter of _____ hour.
- _____ young people tend to think that _____ life was more difficult in _____ past.
- In my opinion _____ education should be free.
- _____ education I got at _____ school was excellent.
- In some cities, _____ cars have been banned from the centre.
- I went to _____ Buckingham Palace today. It was great.

Find the answers in next MONDAY issue

TEST 2 LEVEL 2



Fill in the correct article (A, AN or THE) where necessary – or leave blank !

- _____ moon goes round _____ earth every 27 days.
- The Soviet Union was _____ first country to send a man into _____ space.
- Did you see the film on _____ television or at _____ cinema?
- I'm not very hungry, I had _____ big breakfast.
- I never listen to _____ radio. In fact, I haven't got _____ radio.
- What is _____ highest mountain in _____ world?
- It was a long voyage. We were at _____ sea for four weeks.
- Look at _____ apples on that tree. They're very large.
- _____ women are often better teachers than _____ men.
- In Britain _____ coffee is more expensive than _____ tea.



Reading Comprehension

Chess is called the game of kings. It has been around for a long time. People have been playing it for over 500 years. Chess is based on an even older game from India. The chess we play today is from Europe. Chess is a twoplayer game. One player uses the white pieces. The other uses the black pieces. Each piece moves in a special way. One piece is called the king. Each player has one. The players take turns moving their pieces. If a player lands on a piece, he or she takes it. The game ends when a player loses his or her king. There are a few more rules, but those are the basics.

Some people think that chess is more than a game. They think that it makes the mind stronger. Good chess players use their brains. They take their time. They think about what will happen next. These skills are useful in life and in chess. Chess is kind of like a work out for the mind.

You don't always have lots of time to think when playing chess. There is a type of chess with short time limits. It's called blitz chess. In blitz chess, each player gets ten minutes to use for the whole game. Your clock runs during your turn. You hit the time clock after your move. This stops your clock. It also starts the other player's clock. If you run out of time, you lose. Games of blitz chess are fast-paced.

Chess is not just for people. Computers have been playing chess since the 1970s. At first they did not play well. They made mistakes. As time went on they grew stronger. In 1997, a computer beat the best player in the world for the first time. It was a computer called Deep Blue. Deep Blue was big. It took up a whole room. By 2006 a cell phone could beat the best players in the world. Chess sure has come a long way. Don't you think so?

1. What is the author's purpose in writing the second paragraph?

- To explain the rules of chess
- To compare different types of games
- To talk about game pieces
- To persuade people to play chess

2. Which is not a reason that chess is a good workout for the mind according to the text?

- Good chess players think about what will happen next.
- Good chess players take a lot of risks.
- Good chess players take their time.
- Good chess players use their brains.

3. How long have people been playing chess?

- Over 100 years
- Over 500 years
- Over 1000 years
- Over 5000 years

4. Where did the game that chess is based on come from?

- Europe
- America
- India
- All of these

5. Which best describes the main idea in the fourth paragraph?

- This paragraph argues that players should think less.

b. This paragraph explains how blitz chess is played.

c. This paragraph explains time clocks work.

d. This paragraph describes many different ways to play chess.

6. How does a game of chess end according to the text?

- One player takes all of the other player's pieces.
- One player makes it to the end of the board.
- One player becomes king.
- One player loses his or her king.

7. Which happened first?

- Computers did not play chess well.
- Deep Blue won an important game.
- Cell phones got good at playing chess.
- Deep Blue took up a whole room.



ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED JULY 27, 2015)

KEY : Now It is Your Turn 1

- correct
- incorrect
- Answer: How nice that Joseph offered to help clean up afterward.
- correct
- correct
- incorrect
- Answer: Sh! Be careful not to wake the baby!
- incorrect
- Answer: We are supposed to head home at around 9:00 P. M .
- incorrect
- Answer: Nonsense! I would never say that!
- correct
- incorrect
- Answer: How sad Shila must feel.
- Mrs. Shireen lives across the street.
- Excellent job, Keya! I knew you could do it if you put your mind to it.
- Tamal spoke at a youth conference in St. Louis this past weekend.
- The itinerary shows that the tour starts at 8 A.M .and goes to 4:30 P.M .
- Park Avenue is the third stop before reaching Highland Street.
- God! Why did Mark leave late? He promised to be here by 10 A.M .
- Patel Roy was 4 ft. 7 in. tall in Jan. It's Nov. now, and he's almost 5 ft. 1 in.
- Dr. Kaiser said Poly should exercise for one hr. on Mon., Wed., and Fri.
- Ouch! That hurt my toe!
- I was wondering if Ayesha saw Helal yesterday in school.

KEY : Now It is Your Turn 2

- . 2. ? 3. ! . 4. ? 5. . 6. ? 7. 8. . 9. ! . 10. ? 11. . 12. ? 13. . 14. ? 15. ?

KEY : Now It is Your Turn 3

- Although I liked what you wrote about caring for your pet rat, I have a suggestion you might want to consider.
- Ever since you asked my opinion about the soccer field battle, I've been mulling the situation over, trying to determine a logical consequence.
- I don't usually give unsolicited advice, but this seems to me to be a special case.
- I wouldn't ordinarily presume to tell you how to behave, but I'm concerned.
- Your suggestion is excellent and I may regret not trying it, but I'm going to try something else first.
- May you live as long as you want, and never want as long as you live!
- On the occasion of your 16th birthday, we send you our best wishes.
- As you rightly pointed out, a mistake has been made on your report card.
- I don't like it when you're upset with me, particularly since it was my fault.
- If you are unable to make the meeting, please let me know as soon as possible.
- If you would like to discuss your report card, I would be happy to do so at a time that is convenient for you.
- Despite our last three reminders, you have still been coming to school late.
- In the first sentence, refer to the topic of your paper.
- People who haven't written a letter in years use e-mail because of its ease, directness, and speed.
- Check for accuracy, spelling, and punctuation before sending your e-mail.
- As you are no doubt aware, we are sold out.
- If you require additional support, please call the service department.

KEY:Summary Answer

Before the discovery of penicillin, many patients died of blood-poisoning. In 1928 Dr Fleming discovered that harmful germs were being destroyed by a chemical substance produced by a mould growing in dishes of jelly. Dr Fleming decided to isolate this chemical substance. He finally discovered this substance which was thrice as effective as carbolic acid, a disinfectant used then. This new drug was called penicillin. With the outbreak of the Second World War, the demand for penicillin rose and it was produced in large quantities. With the discovery of penicillin, many lives were saved and many diseases prevented. For his discovery, Dr Flemming was knighted. (99 words)

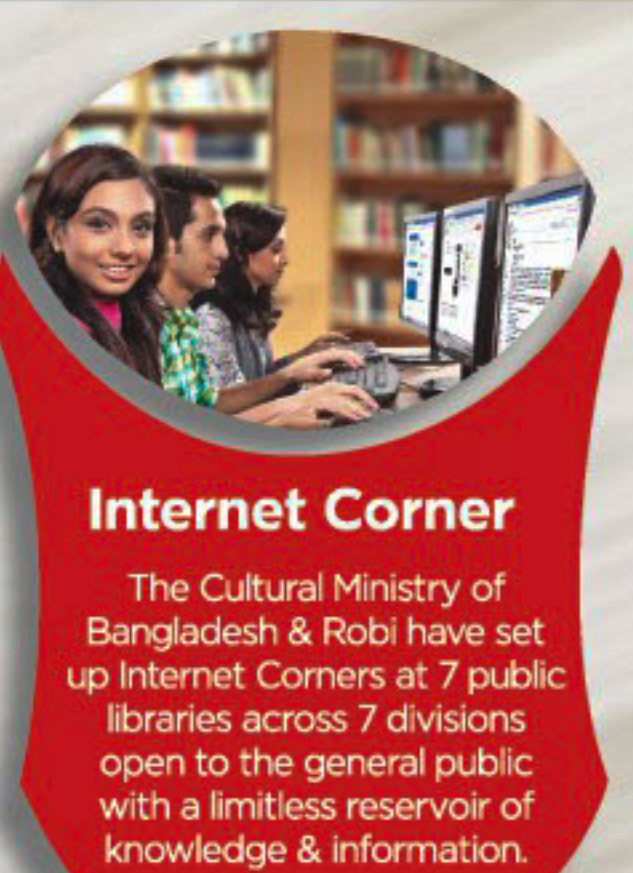
KEY:CLOZE PASSAGE

- about
- take
- landed
- missed
- with
- tell
- all
- well
- dishonest
- fair
- end
- low
- already
14. told
- heart
- would
- returned
18. scored
- full
20. now



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