# englishinschools

# 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.

Find the answers in next MONDAY issue

## ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED MRACH 11, 2019)

**KEY : 1 ( Incorrect answers are in RED )**
1.correct 2.incorrect Answer: How nice that Joseph offered to help clean up afterward. 3.correct 4.correct 5.correct 6.incorrect Answer: Sh! Be careful not to wake the baby. Sh! Be careful not to wake the baby! 7.incorrect Answer: We are supposed to head home at around 9:00 P.M. 8.incorrect Answer: Nonsense! I would never say that. Nonsense! I would never say that! 9.correct 10.incorrect Answer: How sad June must feel.

**KEY : 2**
11.Mrs. Tomaino lives across the street. 12.Excellent job, Kayla! I knew you could do it if you put your mind to it. 13.Rev. Bill Turner spoke at a youth conference in St. Louis this past weekend. 14.The itinerary shows that the tour starts at 8 A.M.and goes to 4:30 P.M. 15.Colfax Jct. is the third stop before reaching Highland Borough. 16.Gee! Why did Mark leave late? He promised to be here by 10 A.M. 17.Peter was 4 ft. 7 in. tall in Jan. It's Nov. now, and he's almost 5 ft. 1 in. 18.Dr. Lorimer said Paul should exercise for one hr. on Mon., Wed., and Fri. 19.Ouch! That hurt my toe! 20.I was wondering if Ashley saw Haley yesterday in school.

**KEY : 3**
1. Marie's fat Siamese cat lounged in the front window. (No comma is needed: neither "Marie's Siamese fat cat . . ." nor "Marie's Siamese and fat cat. . ." makes sense.) 2.The large, scary bug crawled quickly across the bedroom floor. 3.We ate chips, salsa, pretzels, pizza, and popcorn during the movie. 4."How many days," Juan continued, "do we have off of school?" 5.The elephant in the center ring had leathery skin, a long trunk, and big floppy ears. 6."I really hope David makes it to practice," said Frankie. 7.Mark Twain, an American writer, was famous worldwide. 8.Well, what is your opinion about this? 9.Besides skateboarding and surfing, John also plays baseball and soccer.

**KEY : 4**
1.Jill bought the house at 5824 Mt. Holly Oak Drive, Jonestown, MD. 2.Sara's fifteenth birthday is March 17, 2009. 3.Dear Martha, 4.42,398,762,015,200 5.Anita Marcus, DMD, is one of the dentists speaking at our meeting today. 6.Truly yours, 7.4,673,869,297,543,269,864,325,982 8.The Space Shuttle had successful missions in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008. 9.Dear Mr. Hughes, Mr. Foley, Mr. Drake, and Mr. Lynch: 10.Mike's new address is 128 Girard Avenue, Roxbury, WV 87654.

**KEY : 5**
1.Scott used his sister's cell phone to call Kris; he lost his yesterday. 2.Liz will meet Kim and Erin at 6:00; they have a yoga class at 6:15. 3.We watched Garfield: A Tail of Two Kittens after school on Monday. 4.TIME 4:56–75 5.Add these to your list when you go to the grocery store: bread, milk, lunch meat, and cheese. 6.Shari owns four dogs; three of them are poodles. 7.Helen Keller once said: "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart." 8.Dear Dr. Klinger: 9.Lexi likes knitting scarves and hats, Gina likes watercolor painting, and Mona likes making pottery. 10.Our plane leaves at 4:00 in the morning; therefore, we will leave at 1:00 to be sure we arrive on time. 11.Harry: Spy Aficionado of Fourth Streettops Orland's list of favorite books. 12.Kayla's school supply list included a calculator, ruler, and protractor for math; a composition book, pocket dictionary, and pens for English; and a binder. 13.Newsweek5: 26: 22-29 14.Ursula will go on stage at 6:05; Mallory will follow shortly after at 6:08; and we'll wrap it up with Sue at 6:20. 15.Dear Congressman Henderson:

# 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?

**Remember!**

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**

# 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).

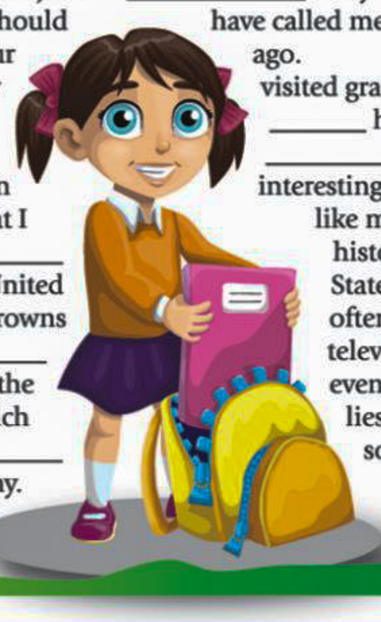
When/If the noun is modified by an adjective, the choice between **a** and **an** depends on the initial sound of the adjective that immediately follows the article.

**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 !**

1. _____ modern life is stressful.
2. What's _____ capital of your country?
3. _____ doctor earns more than _____ teacher.
4. Do you know who invented _____ computer ?
5. Have you seen _____ newspaper? I can't find it anywhere.
6. Is this _____ first time you've stayed at _____ Hilton ?
7. Is _____ Nile or _____ Amazon _____ longest river on _____ earth ?
8. Several million visitors _____ year are attracted to _____ ski slopes of _____ Alps.
9. I ' ll meet you outside _____ post office. I'll be there in _____ quarter of _____ hour.
10. _____ young people tend to think that _____ life was more difficult in _____ past.
11. In my opinion _____ education should be free.
12. _____ education I got at _____ school was excellent.
13. In some cities, _____ cars have been banned from the centre.
14. I went to _____ Buckingham Palace today. It was great.
15. I took _____ train to London and then _____ underground to _____Victoria Station. It's _____ short walk from there.
16. Would you like to come with us to see _____Titanic at the cinema tomorrow?
17. I had _____ experience at work today.
18. The car sped past at 100 miles _____ hour.
19. _____ Mount Everest is the highest mountain in _____ world.
20. _____ Middle East is one of the world's hot spots.
21. We lived in _____ Netherlands before moving here.
22. If you ever go to London you must see _____ Tower of London and _____ Tate Gallery.
23. We noticed _____ strong smell coming from _____ refrigerator .
24. She lives in _____ England, which is part of _____ UK.
25. After his wife's death he left _____ home and joined _____ army.
26. He should have called me _____ hour ago.
27. They visited grandmother in _____ hospital .
28. _____ history is an interesting subject , but what I like most is _____ history of the United States.
29. The Browns often watch _____ television in the evening.
30. Munich lies in _____ south of Germany.