



মহাশিক্ষা বিভাগ (সংস্কৃত)
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

**CLASS IX & X
ENGLISH GRAMMAR
PART I
LESSON 11
ARTICLES**

NOTES

A, an and *the* are called **Articles**. They are also called **Demonstrative Adjectives**. The three Articles: *a, an* and *the* are again divided into:

a. Indefinite Articles: *A* and *an* are called **Indefinite Articles** because they are used when we do not specify any particular person or thing we are referring to.

Example: A boy is playing happily.

b. Definite Article: *The* is called the **Definite Article** because it points out or refers to a particular person or thing.

Example: The boy walks fast.

I. Position of Articles:

A. The Articles are placed in various ways:

a. An article comes before a Noun.

Example: He is a boy.

b. An Article is placed before an Adjective if it helps in qualifying a Noun.

Example: She helped a blind man.

c. An Article is also placed before an Adverb which comes before an Adjective.

Example: He is a very good boy.

B. As a general principle, the Indefinite Articles are used before singular countable Nouns. However, the use of *a* and *an* depends on the spoken form of the word following them and not on the written form.

a. *A* is used with the words beginning with a consonant sound.

Examples: a ball, a useful thing, a one-rupee note etc.

b. *An* is used before a word beginning with a vowel sound.

Examples: an apple, an orange, an hour etc.



C. Uses of Indefinite Articles:

As a general rule, the Indefinite Articles (*a* and *an*) which mean *one*, are not used before Plural Nouns.

There are various uses of the Indefinite Articles.

- 1. An Indefinite Article is used to represent a class.**
Example: A cow is a domestic animal.
- 2. It is also used in the vague sense of *a certain*.**
Example: One night, a thief broke into his house.
- 3. It is also used to generalize a Proper Noun. The Proper Noun, then, has the qualities of a Common Noun.**
Example: Tom is a Birla. (a very rich man)
- 4. It is occasionally used in the sense of *any* or *a single*.**
Example: He did not speak a word to defend his son.
- 5. It is also used in the sense of *every*.**
Example: Apple is sold at Rs. 40 a kilo.
- 6. Sometimes, it is also used in the sense of the *same*.**
Example: Birds of a feather flock together.
- 7. It is sometimes used to express a certain choice.**
Example: We have decided to go to a movie today.
- 8. It is used to denote nationality, political conviction or a certain position.**
Example: He is an Indian.
- 9. It is also used in the form (Infinitive Verb + Indefinite Article + Noun) having the meaning of a Verb.**
Example: He wants to have a rest.
- 10. The Indefinite Article is also used to denote a person bearing a certain name in question.**
Example: We have a Robert in our class.
- 11. In case when different aspects of one and the same person are denoted, the Indefinite Article is used.**
Example: This is a different Thomas from the one I used to know in my class.



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12. The Indefinite Article is also used before most of the illnesses.

Example: I have got a cold.

(N.B: But not in the following cases-

a) I have heart trouble

b) The boy has flu

c) The girl suffers from asthma.)

13. Sometimes an Indefinite Article is used to denote a thing made by the person bearing the same name.

Example: He drives a Ford.

14. The Indefinite Articles are sometimes used with Uncountable Nouns used in a Countable sense.

Example: Good friends can give you a life of contentment.

15. Indefinite Articles are also used after some prepositions like as, for, on and at.

Example: We came to this place for a change.

16. Indefinite Articles are also used in some phrases like:

to take an interest, to be in a temper, to give a warning, to pay somebody a visit etc.

17. Sometimes Indefinite Articles are used in some exclamatory sentences beginning with *what*.

Example: What a beauty!

D. Uses of the Definite Articles:

(a) The Definite Article is used to specify or particularize a person or a thing denoted by the noun. It can, generally, be used before any noun.

Example: We are going to the market.

(b) There are other uses of the Definite Article. It is used:

1. When a Singular Noun is used to represent a whole class.

Example: The dog is a faithful animal.

2. Before a Proper Noun when we wish to show similarity.

Example: Khamba was the Hercules of Manipur.

3. With some geographical or significant names.

Examples: The Punjab, the Deccan etc.

4. Before the names of seas, oceans, gulfs, rivers, groups of islands, canals and deserts.

Examples: The Pacific Ocean, the Panama Canal, the Arabian Sea, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands etc.



5. Before the names of some countries.

Examples: The United Kingdom, the Netherlands etc.

6. Before the names of mountain ranges.

Examples: The Alps, the Himalayas etc.

7. Before the names of sacred books, newspapers, names of well-known buildings, ships and important events.

Examples: The Bible, the Telegraph, the Taj Mahal, the Titanic, the Sepoy Mutiny etc.

8. Before the names of trains, aeroplanes and spacecrafts.

Examples: The Rajdhani Express, the Indigo, the Sputnik etc.

9. Before the names of unique objects and before directions.

Examples: The sun, the world, the east etc.

10. Before Proper Noun with a qualifying Adjective or a defining Adjective clause.

Example: The immortal Shakespeare started his life as an actor.

11. Before an Adjective to represent a class.

Example: The wise are always sober and patient.

12. It is used with the Superlative and in certain cases with Comparative Degrees.

Examples:

(a) She is the brighter of the two girls.

(b) He is the smartest boy in the class.

13. It is also used as an Adverb with Adjectives in the Comparative Degree.

Example: The more, the merrier.

14. It is also used to indicate emphasis.

Example: Corruption is the order of the day.

15. It is also sometimes used in place of Possessive Adjectives.

Example: The bully held me by the arm.

16. It is used before an Adjective to express an abstract idea.

Example: We should always respect the honest and the pure.



17. Before the names of public buildings.

Example: The Rashtrapati Bhawan, the White House etc.

18. The Definite Article is also used when a singular countable noun which has been mentioned before is again referred to.

Example: I went to a doctor and the doctor was very young.

19. It is used before a National name to denote a people collectively.

Example: The English are industrious.

20. It is also used before Adjectives to denote a particular part of things.

Example: The boy does not like the yellow of an egg.

[Note: There are also other uses of the Definite Article.]

E. Omission of Articles: No Article is used before –

1. Proper, Material and Abstract Nouns when they are used in a general sense.

Example: Anger is harmful.

2. Articles are dropped before Common Nouns in the Plural.

Example: Boys are playing.

3. Article is dropped before a Common Noun in the Vocative Case.

Example: Boy, come here quickly.

4. It is also dropped before the Common Nouns used in the widest sense.

Example: Man is a social animal.

5. Articles are dropped before the names of Lakes, Countries, Continents, Cities, Days, Months and Languages.

Example: Loktak, India, Asia, Monday etc.

6. Articles are dropped before the names of meals used in a general sense.

Example: We invited them to dinner.

7. Articles are also dropped before the following Nouns: school, college, temple, prison, bed etc. when they are used for their primary purpose.

Example: My father is still in hospital.

8. Articles are dropped before the names of relations like father, mother, aunt, uncle etc.

Example: Father has gone for a walk.

9. Articles are also dropped before the complements of verbs.

Example: He was elected President of the Club.



10. Articles are also dropped in some Prepositional Phrases.

Example: We travelled *by air*.

11. No article is used before common nouns used in pairs.

Example: Both *husband* and *wife* were present.

12. Articles are dropped before a title, rank, status etc. used in Apposition to a Proper Noun.

Example: Narendra Modi , Prime Minister of India has visited many countries.

13. Articles are dropped in certain verbal phrases (Transitive verb + Noun).

Example: The boy *left school* at an early age.

F. Repetition of the Article:

1. When two or more Nouns joined by ‘and’ refer to the same person or thing, the Article is generally used only before the first.

Examples:

The Secretary and Treasurer has done the work. (the same man)

The Secretary and the Treasurer have done the work. (two separate men)

2. When two or more Adjectives refer to the same Noun, the Article is used before the first Adjective only.

Examples:

I have a black and white cat. (only one cat)

The black and the white cats drank all the milk. (two cats)

3. In expressing a comparison, if two Nouns refer to the same person or thing, the Article is placed before the first Noun only.

Examples:

He is a better poet than singer. (referring to one person.)

He is a better mechanic than a driver. (would make) [Here, referring to two different persons]