

Articles

Articles — Grade 1 (a, an, the)

Articles are tiny helper words that come before nouns. They point to **one** thing (*a, an*) or a **particular** thing (*the*).

Quick Links:

What are articles? • A vs. An (sound rule) • Using “the” • When no article is needed • Quick chart
• Picture cards • Common mistakes • Try it • MCQs

What are articles?

a

Use before a **consonant sound**.

a cat a bag a red ball

an

Use before a **vowel sound** (a, e, i, o, u).

an apple an egg an umbrella

the

Use for something **specific** or **unique**.

the sun the moon the Taj Mahal

A vs. An — follow the *sound*

Use **a** when it starts with a consonant sound

- **a** dog, **a** toy, **a** yellow balloon
- **a** unicorn (starts with “yoo” sound ? consonant sound)

Use **an** when it starts with a vowel sound

- **an** orange, **an** ice-cream
- **an** hour (silent *h* ? “our” sound)

Tip: Say the word aloud. If it begins with a vowel sound (a/e/i/o/u), use *an*. Otherwise, use *a*.

Using “the”

One special thing

Please pass **the** book on the table.

Unique things

the sun

the moon

the sky

Famous names

the Taj Mahal

the Ganga

the Himalayas

When no article is needed (Grade-1 friendly)

Talking in general (plural)

Cats like milk. (Not “The cats”, unless you mean some *specific* cats.)

Names of people & places

Ria lives in **Delhi**. (No article before names like Ria, Delhi.)

Quick chart (look up fast!)

| Noun / Phrase | Correct article | Why? |
|---------------|----------------------|---|
| ___ apple | an apple | Vowel sound (a). |
| ___ cat | a cat | Consonant sound (c). |
| ___ umbrella | an umbrella | Vowel sound ("uh"). |
| ___ unicorn | a unicorn | "yoo" sound ? consonant sound. |
| ___ hour | an hour | Silent h ? vowel sound. |
| ___ sun | the sun | Unique thing. |
| ___ Taj Mahal | the Taj Mahal | Famous/specific name. |
| ___ oranges | — or the | General: no article. Specific: use <i>the</i> . |

Picture cards



an apple



a unicorn ("yoo" sound)



the sun



a cat

Common mistakes (quick fixes)

Letters vs. sounds

We choose by **sound**! a unicorn ? "yoo" ? **a**

Forgetting "the" for unique things

Write: **the** sun / **the** moon

Adding "the" before names

Do *not* write "the Ria" or "the Delhi".

General vs. specific

Oranges are sweet. (general) • **The oranges** in my bag (specific)

Try it (mini practice)

Fill in the blanks

(a / an / the)

1. Ria ate ___ orange.
2. Please open ___ door.
3. I have ___ yellow pencil.
4. We saw ___ Taj Mahal.
5. Dad waited for ___ hour.

Answers: an, the, a, the, an

Choose the correct sentence

- A. I saw a elephant.
- B. I saw an elephant.
- C. I saw the elephant sun.

Answer: B

MCQ Practice (5 Questions)

1. **1. Choose the correct article: "I have ___ umbrella."**

- A. a
- B. an
- C. the
- D. no article

► Answer & Explanation

2. **2. Which sentence is correct?**

- A. We saw the sun.
- B. We saw a sun.
- C. We saw an sun.
- D. We saw sun.

► Answer & Explanation

3. **3. Fill the blank: "She is eating ___ ice-cream."**

- A. a
- B. an
- C. the
- D. no article

► Answer & Explanation

4. **4. Choose the correct option: "Ravi has ___ red kite."**

- A. an

- B. a
- C. the
- D. no article

► **Answer & Explanation**

5. **5. Pick the best sentence.**

- A. The Ria lives in the Delhi.
- B. Ria lives in Delhi.
- C. An Ria lives in a Delhi.
- D. Ria lives in the Delhi city.

► **Answer & Explanation**