

ARTICLES: A / AN / THE

A1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Introduce something and talk about it again.

1. READ: A lunch break

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar forms.

Sara: I've got **a** sandwich and **an** apple. What about you?

Ben: I've got **a** sandwich too.

Sara: What's in your sandwich?

Ben: Cheese. Is yours cheese too?

Sara: No, it's chicken. Do you want **the** apple?

Ben: Yes, please. Thanks!

2. GRAMMAR: First mention and known things

Use a or an for one countable thing. Use the when we know which thing you mean.

Article	Use	Example
a	Before a consonant sound	a bag / a teacher
an	Before a vowel sound	an apple / an umbrella
the	A known or specific thing	I have a bag. The bag is blue.

Listen to the **sound**, not only the first letter: **an hour; a university**.

First mention: I see **a** dog. Next mention: **The** dog is small.

Use a / an with singular countable nouns, not plurals: **a book**, not a books.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct article. The example answer is bold: **a** / an pen.

1. a / an orange

2. a / an new phone

3. a / an English teacher

4. a / an old house

5. a / an bicycle

6. a / an umbrella

7. a / an small bag

8. a / an egg

Read each answer aloud. Check the subject, the noun or the clue.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: At a cafe

Write a, an or the. Use one word in each gap.

Waiter: Hello. What would you like?

Mia: I'd like (1) _____ cheese sandwich and (2) _____ orange juice, please.

Waiter: Of course. Would you like (3) _____ apple too?

Mia: Yes, please. Is (4) _____ apple red or green?

Waiter: It's green. Would you like to sit outside?

Mia: Yes. Is there (5) _____ table outside?

Waiter: Yes. There's (6) _____ empty table by the door.

Mia: Great. I'll sit at (7) _____ table by the door, thanks.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Write a or an.

Example: She is **a** doctor.

1. He has _____ red coat.

2. She wants _____ ice cream.

3-4: Correct the article in the second sentence. Example: I have a pen. A pen is blue. **The pen is blue.**

3. I see a cat. A cat is black.

4. We have a car. An car is old.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write three sentences: introduce two things you have, then say something about one of them.

Example: **I have a bag. I have an umbrella. The bag is blue.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

1. Choose two things in your bag. Tell your partner about them.

Example: **I have a book and an umbrella. The book is new.**

2. Ask your partner: **What colour is the umbrella? Is the book good?**

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: A lunch break

Sample target language from the conversation:

Sara: I've got **a** sandwich and **an** apple. What about you?

Ben: I've got **a** sandwich too.

Sara: No, it's chicken. Do you want **the** apple?

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. an | 2. a |
| 3. an | 4. an |
| 5. a | 6. an |
| 7. a | 8. an |

B. COMPLETE: At a cafe

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1. a | 2. an |
| 3. an | 4. the |
| 5. a | 6. an |
| 7. the | |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. a
2. an
3. The cat is black.
4. The car is old.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: I have a phone and an umbrella. The phone is black.

Teacher note: In this cafe context, an orange juice means one drink. In C3-4, only the second sentence needs rewriting.