

ARTICLES: A, AN, THE & NO ARTICLE

B1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Choose articles for first mentions, known things and general ideas.

1. READ: A bookshop discovery

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Megan: I found **a bookshop** near the station yesterday.

Hugo: The little one beside the cafe?

Megan: Yes. **The owner** recommended **an unusual** travel book.

Hugo: What was it about?

Megan: Walking across Europe. I love **books** about journeys.

Hugo: Me too. I'll have a look at **the book** when you've finished it.

2. GRAMMAR: First mention, shared knowledge and general meaning

Use a/an for a nonspecific singular countable noun; the for an identified one; no article for general plurals.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
First / nonspecific	a/an + singular noun	I found a bookshop.
Known / identified	the + noun	The owner recommended it.
General meaning	plural / uncountable noun	Books are useful. Music helps.

Sound: an hour, a university. Choose a/an by sound, not spelling alone.

No article with most countries: Japan. Use the with some names: the UK.

Use the for a specific group: The books on that shelf are mine.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. I bought a / an umbrella.
2. She is a / an university student.
3. I saw a dog. A / The dog followed me.
4. Books / The books are useful in general.
5. I love music / the music in general.
6. We visited the / - Japan last year.
7. He waited for a / an hour.
8. Please close a / the door beside you.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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

B. COMPLETE: Visiting a bookshop

Write a, an, the or - for no article.

1. I went into _____ small bookshop yesterday.
2. _____ shop was near the station.
3. The owner showed me _____ unusual travel book.
4. I stayed for _____ hour.
5. I enjoy _____ books about travel in general.
6. Next year, I hope to visit _____ Japan.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Correct the article.

Example: She is an teacher. **She is a teacher.**

1. He is a engineer.

2. I waited for a hour.

3-4: Rewrite with the correct general form. Example: I like the music in general. **I like music.**

3. The dogs are friendly animals in general.

4. I love the art in general.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write a three-sentence story. Introduce a singular noun with a/an, then refer to it with the.

Example: **I saw a dog outside. The dog looked hungry. I gave it some food.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Tell your story. Your partner identifies the first mention and the later mention.

Then say one general thing you like, using a plural or uncountable noun.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: A bookshop discovery

Sample target language from the conversation:

Megan: I found **a bookshop** near the station yesterday.

Megan: Yes. **The owner** recommended **an unusual** travel book.

Megan: Walking across Europe. I love **books** about journeys.

Hugo: Me too. I'll have a look at **the book** when you've finished it.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|----------|-------------------|
| 1. an | 2. a |
| 3. The | 4. Books |
| 5. music | 6. - (no article) |
| 7. an | 8. the |

B. COMPLETE: Visiting a bookshop

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. a | 2. The |
| 3. an | 4. an |
| 5. - (no article) | 6. - (no article) |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. He is an engineer.
2. I waited for an hour.
3. Dogs are friendly animals in general.
4. I love art in general.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: I found a cafe near work. The cafe has a garden. I love gardens.

Teacher note: A dash means no article, not a word to copy into the sentence. Article choices depend on shared knowledge; keep examples explicit.