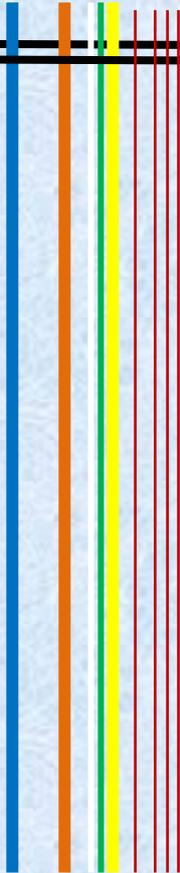
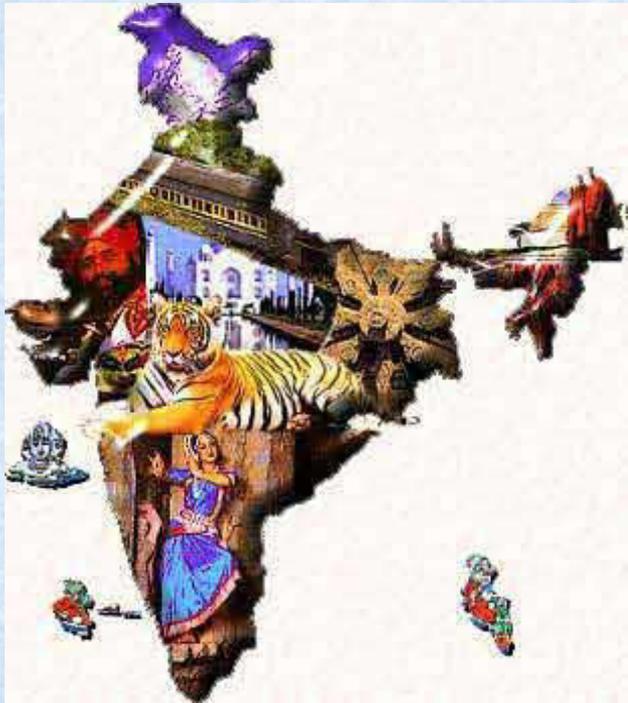


RESOURCE WORLD

GENERAL ENGLISH



FREE

Articles

Book for Various Competitive Exams

(Like KPSC technical Post C, KSRTC, PDO, RRB, SSC, FDAA, SDAA, PSI, PC, CET, etc..)



www.amkresourceinfo.com



www.amkresourceinfo.com



Articles

USE 1

The article *A* is used before singular, countable nouns which begin with consonant sounds.

Examples:

- He is **a** teacher.
- She doesn't own **a** car.
- I saw **a** bear at the zoo.

USE 2

The article *AN* is used before singular, countable nouns which begin with vowel sounds.

Examples:

- He is **an** actor.
- She didn't get **an** invitation.
- I saw **an** eagle at the zoo.

USE 3

Remember that *A(AN)* means "one" or "a single". You cannot use *A(AN)* with plural nouns.

Examples:

- I saw **a** bears in Yellowstone National Park. *Not Correct*
- I saw bears in Yellowstone National Park. *Correct*

USE 4

If there is an adjective or an adverb-adjective combination before the noun, *A(AN)* should agree with the first sound in the adjective or the adverb-adjective combination.

Examples:

- He is **an** excellent teacher.
- I saw **a** really beautiful eagle at the zoo.

USE 5

Use *A* before words such as "European" or "university" which sound like they start with a consonant even if the first letter is a vowel. Also use *A* before letters and numbers which sound like they begin with a consonant, such as "U", "J", "I" or "9". Remember, it is the sound not the spelling which is important. For example, "I" is spelled O-N-E; however, it is pronounced "won" like it starts with a "W".

Examples:

- She has **a** euro. *SOUNDS LIKE "YU-RO"*.
- That number is **a** "I". *SOUNDS LIKE "WON"*.

USE 6

Use *AN* before words such as "hour" which sound like they start with a vowel even if the first letter is a consonant. Also use *AN* before letters and numbers which sound like they begin with a vowel, such as "F" or "8". Remember, it is the sound not the spelling which is important. For example, "F" is pronounced "eff" like it starts with an "E".

Examples:

- I only have **an** hour for lunch. *SOUNDS LIKE "AU-ER"*.
- Does his name begin with **an** "F"? *SOUNDS LIKE "EFF"*.

USE 7

Some words such as "herb" or "hospital" are more complicated because they are pronounced differently in different English accents. In most American accents, the "h" in "herb" is silent, so Americans usually say "an herb". In many British accents, the "h" in "herb" is pronounced, so many British say "a herb". In some British accents, the "h" in hospital is silent, so some British will say "an hospital" instead of "a hospital".

USE 8

In English, some nouns are considered uncountable such as: information, air, advice, salt and fun. We do not use *A(AN)* with these uncountable nouns. (Learn more about countable and uncountable nouns.)

Examples:

- She gives **a** good advice. *Not Correct*
- She gives good advice. *Correct*

USE 9

A and *AN* are called indefinite articles. "Indefinite" means "not specific". Use *A(AN)* when you are talking about a thing in general, NOT a specific thing.

Examples:

- I need **a** phone. *NOT A SPECIFIC PHONE, ANY PHONE*
- Mark wants **a** bicycle. *NOT A PARTICULAR BICYCLE, A BICYCLE IN GENERAL*
- Do you have **a** driver's license? *IN GENERAL*

Use *A(AN)* when talking about a thing which is new, unknown, or introduced to a listener for the first time. Also use *A(AN)* when you are asking about the existence of something.

Examples:

- I have **a** car. *THE CAR IS BEING INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME.*
- Tom is **a** teacher. *THIS IS NEW INFORMATION TO THE LISTENER.*
- Is there **a** dictionary in your backpack? *ASKING ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE DICTIONARY*

Similarly, use *A(AN)* to introduce what type of thing we are talking about.

Examples:

- That is **an** excellent book. *DESCRIBING THE KIND OF BOOK*
- Do you live in **a** big house? *ASKING ABOUT THE KIND OF HOUSE*
- I ate **a** thick, juicy steak. *DESCRIBING THE KIND OF STEAK*

REMEMBER: You cannot use *A(AN)* with plural nouns because *A(AN)* means "one" or "a single".

Examples:

- I saw **a** bears in Yellowstone National Park. *Not Correct*
- I saw bears in Yellowstone National Park. *Correct*

USE 10

THE is called a definite article. "Definite" means "specific". Use *THE* when talking about something which is already known to the listener or which has been previously mentioned, introduced, or discussed.

Examples:

- I have a cat. **The** cat is black.
- There is a book in my backpack. **The** book is very heavy.
- Do you know where I left **the** car keys? *THE LISTENER KNOWS WHICH SPECIFIC CAR KEYS YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT.*
- Do you own a car? Is **the** car blue? *YOU ASSUME THEY DO HAVE A CAR AFTER ASKING ABOUT IT IN THE FIRST SENTENCE.*
- Nobody lives on **the** Moon. *THE MOON IS KNOWN TO EVERYONE.*

IMPORTANT: You can use *THE* with both singular nouns and plural nouns.

Examples:

- I saw **the** bear in Yellowstone National Park. *Correct*
- I saw **the** bears in Yellowstone National Park. *Correct*

USE 11

Many clauses and phrases make the noun known to the listener by telling the listener which person or thing we are talking about. Let's look at an example sentence:

Can you give me **the** book *on the table*.

We use *THE* in this sentence because the phrase "on the table" tells the listener which book we are referring to. We are not talking about other books, we are talking about a specific book that the listener can see or already knows about. Learning to recognize such identifying clauses and phrases will help you use *THE* correctly.

Examples:

- Did you read **the** book *which I gave you*?
- He didn't like **the** movie *that you suggested*.
- He loved **the** dessert *with chocolate and cherries*.
- **The** phone *on my desk* belongs to Ken.
- Did you know **the** man *who was talking to Leonie*?

HOWEVER: Not all clauses and phrases make the noun known to the listener. Some are simply descriptive. They add extra information, but they do not tell the listener which specific thing we are talking about.

Examples:

- He bought **the** house *with a big backyard*. *THIS COMBINATION TELLS THE LISTENER WHICH SPECIFIC HOUSE HE BOUGHT.*
- He bought **a** house *with a big backyard*. *THIS COMBINATION TELLS THE LISTENER WHAT KIND OF HOUSE HE BOUGHT, BUT NOT THE SPECIFIC HOUSE HE BOUGHT.*

USE 12

A(*AN*) can be used like the word "per".

Examples:

- Apples currently cost \$1.30 **a** pound.
- Cheetahs can run 60 miles **an** hour.
- You want \$150 **a** person for the tour?

USE 13

Use *THE* with nouns modified by ranking or ordering expressions such as "the first", "the second", "the third", "the next", "the last", "the previous", "the following", "the penultimate", etc.

Examples:

- This is **the** fifth day of our conference.
- I'll pay **the** next time we have dinner.
- Don't forget **the** following rule.

USE 14

Use *THE* with superlatives such as "the best", "the biggest", "the most important", "the least interesting", etc.

Examples:

- This is **the** best day ever.
- That is **the** most expensive hotel room I've ever heard of in my life.
- He told **the** funniest joke!

Comparative forms, such as "bigger", "better", "more" can be used with both A(AN) and *THE* and follow general article usage.

Examples:

- I like **the** bigger roller coaster.
- He has **a** more expensive car than I do.

HOWEVER: *THE* is often used with comparative forms (bigger) rather than superlative forms (biggest) when comparing only two things. This is commonly used in phrases such as "the bigger of the two".

Examples:

- Jessie and Shauna are both smart. But I think Shauna is **the** smarter of the two.
- Between Jason's son and his daughter, his daughter is **the** better athlete.

USE 15

Do not use articles when generalizing about uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns.

Examples:

- **Curiosity** is a great trait. *UNCOUNTABLE*
- **Water** is an important resource. *UNCOUNTABLE*
- **Vegetables** are good for you. *PLURAL COUNTABLE*

USE 16

English speakers often use *THE* plus a singular noun when they talk about or make generalizations about certain topics, including:

- musical instruments (the piano, the guitar, the flute)
- plants (the coconut palm, the saguaro, the baobab)
- animals (the leopard, the elephant, the lowland gorilla)
- inventions (the steam engine, the plane, the light bulb)
- currencies (the dollar, the euro, the yen)
- body parts (the head, the eye, the ear)

Examples:

- I play **the** piano.
- **The** sequoia tree is native to California.
- **The** dolphin is a very intelligent animal.
- The Wright brothers invented **the** airplane.
- Right now, **the** euro is stronger than **the** dollar.
- Cheryl got poked in **the** eye.

In general, English speakers choose to use *THE* in this way to give the noun a more abstract or conceptual sound. We choose to say "the piano" to make it sound more like an abstract art form. Similarly, "the dolphin" sounds more like we are referring to the species. Moreover, "the plane" has a more conceptual sound that conveys the idea of invention. But remember, you can also make generalizations about these topics using plurals as in USE 15.

USE 17

The expressions "a few" and "a little" mean "some" and express the idea that you have more than expected.

Examples:

- He always carries **a few** dollars for emergencies.
- He had **a little** difficulty with his homework.
- She has **a few** friends who can help her move.

HOWEVER: The expressions "few" and "little" (without an article) mean "not much" and express the idea that you have less than expected.

Examples:

- Unfortunately, I had **little** time to enjoy New York because I had to work so much.
- Sadly, he has **few** people in his life.
- They have **little** money, so their daughter cannot pay her tuition.

BUT REMEMBER: When the words "only" or "just" are used, "a few" and "a little" also emphasize the meaning "not much".

Examples:

- Unfortunately, I **only** had **a little** time to enjoy New York because I had to work so much.
- Sadly, he **just** has **a few** people in his life.
- They **only** have **a little** money, so their daughter cannot pay her tuition.

USE 18

Generally, articles are not used with the names of illnesses or diseases.

Examples:

- Dr. Smith visits schools and universities to educate students on **AIDS**.
- Oncologists are doctors who specialize in treating **cancer**.
- There are several medications that can be used to treat **malaria**.

HOWEVER: There are some illnesses which require *THE*.

- the measles
- the flu
- the mumps
- the bubonic plague

MOREOVER: There are a few health conditions or illnesses which can be used with both *A(AN)* as well as *THE* and follow general article use. This category includes most aches, pains, growths, and attacks.

- a cold
- a heart attack
- a stroke
- a wart / tumor / growth / etc.
- a sore throat / sore back/ sore foot / etc.
- a headache / toothache / backache / etc.

REMEMBER: This last category follows general article use. Study the examples below.

Examples:

- John has **a** cold. **The** cold was pretty bad.
- Nancy had **a** heart attack. **The** heart attack seriously weakened her heart.
- Deb had **a** sore throat. **The** sore throat made it hard to talk.

USE 19

If a direction (north, west, southeast, left, right) directly follows a verb, do not use an article with the direction.

Examples:

- We need to walk **south**.
- They drove **north** all day.
- At the stop sign, turn **left** and walk three blocks.

HOWEVER: If a direction follows a preposition, you must use *THE*.

Examples:

- We need to walk to **the** south.
- Our house is in **the** north.
- The grocery store is on **the** right.

MOREOVER: Use *THE* with compass directions when referring to them as special geographic or cultural regions.

Examples:

- We love **the** South.
- Have you ever visited **the** East?
- **The** West has better national parks.

USE 20

THE can be used with plural family names to refer to the family as a group.

Examples:

- **The** Robinsons love to vacation in Florida.
- **The** Shinoharas are originally from Japan.
- My brother lives next door to **the** Jacksons.

USE 21

THE can be combined with certain adjectives to refer to a group of people such as "the blind", "the elderly", "the rich", "the French", "the Sioux", etc.

Examples:

- He is **elderly**. *ADJECTIVE*
- The organization helps **the elderly**. *ELDERLY PEOPLE*

REMEMBER: This is especially important in situations where nationalities or ethnic groups and their languages might be confused. In such situations, *THE* is used to specify that we are talking about the nationality or ethnic group rather than the language.

Examples:

- I like **French**. *LANGUAGE*
- I like **the French**. *THE FRENCH PEOPLE*

HOWEVER: When generalizing about nationalities or ethnic groups that end in "-ans", such as "Americans", "Mexicans", and "Hawaiians", *THE* is not usually used.

Examples:

- **Americans** watch a lot of TV.
- **Germans** drink a lot of beer.

USE 22

Do not use *THE* with the names of most countries unless the name contains a word such as "States", "Kingdom", "Republic", "Emirates", "Union", "Coast", etc.

Examples:

- I love **Italy**.
- John used to live in **Japan**.
- He lives in **the United States**.

SIMILARLY: Don't use *THE* with states, provinces, and cities unless *THE* is specifically part of the name or contains a word such as "Territory" or "Coast".

Examples:

- He lives in **California**.
- Ladakh is in **India**.
- **The Northwest Territories** is a province in Canada.

EXCEPTIONS: *THE* is used with "the Netherlands" as well as with many nations which are island chains, such as "the Philippines", "the Maldives", "the Bahamas", etc. Additionally, in the past, *THE* was used with certain countries such as "the Sudan", "the Gambia", and "the Congo"; this usage is becoming less common.

Examples:

- He lives in **the Netherlands**.
- I visited **the Bahamas** last year.

USE 23

Use *THE* with the names of:

- oceans
- seas
- coasts
- rivers
- swamps
- archipelagos
- collections of lakes (such as the Great Lakes)
- mountain chains
- deserts
- references on the globe (such as the Equator, the North Pole)
- geographic regions (such as the Northwest, the Middle East)
- bridges (except Tower Bridge)
- pagodas
- hotels
- theaters
- museums
- institutes
- skyscrapers
- the Sun, the Moon
- extraordinary works of art or architecture (such as the Mona Lisa, the Colosseum, the Great Wall of China, and the Taj Mahal)

Examples:

- James visited **the** Hermitage, a famous museum in St. Petersburg.
- I would love to visit **the** North Pole.
- Nina walked over **the** Rialto Bridge.

Use our [Articles Flashcards](#) to memorize the categories in Uses 23 and 24.

USE 24

Do not use an article with:

- individual lakes
- individual islands
- beaches
- waterfalls
- individual mountains (except the Matterhorn)

- canyons (except the Grand Canyon)
- people's first names
- streets (except the High Street)
- public squares
- hospitals
- stadiums
- malls
- parks
- churches
- temples
- universities
- colleges
- languages
- religions
- days
- months
- holidays

Examples:

- Have you ever visited **Notre Dame Cathedral** in Paris?
- Kenta is **Buddhist**.
- We went camping in **King's Canyon**.

HOWEVER: There are additional exceptions to some of the above categories. For example, *THE* is often used in the pattern "the ... of ...".

Examples:

- **The University of Colorado**
- **The Temple of Ranakpur**
- **The Cathedral of Siena**

Use our [Articles Flashcards](#) to memorize the categories in Uses 23 and 24.

USE 25

Time expressions can be especially confusing. *THE* is used in some time expressions such as:

- in the morning
- in the afternoon
- in the evening
- during the night
- during the day
- the day before yesterday
- the day after tomorrow
- the fall
- the summer

Examples:

- We'll meet in **the** afternoon.
- Jake loves to go camping in **the** fall.
- There was a small earthquake during **the** night.

HOWEVER: In other time expressions, no article is used:

- at night
- at noon
- at midnight
- all day
- all night

- all month
- every month
- every year
- last night
- last Friday
- yesterday
- tomorrow

Examples:

- Did you sleep well **last night**?
- I'll see you **tomorrow**.
- We are meeting for lunch **at noon**.

MOREOVER: There are some expressions which can take both *A(AN)* and *THE* such as:

- a/the whole day
- a/the whole month
- an/the entire year
- an/the entire decade

Examples:

- He spent **a** whole month in Hawaii. I wish I could do that.
- I took last Friday off to go to the doctor. I spent **the** whole day sitting in his office.
- When she first moved to Germany, it took **an** entire year for her to learn enough German to go shopping.
- Phil hated the '90s. He spent **the** whole decade in a dead-end job struggling to pay his rent.

EXAMPLE 1

1. I like the blue T-shirt over there better than the red one.
2. Their car does 150 miles an hour.
3. Where's the USB drive I lent you last week?
4. Do you still live in x Bristol?
5. Is your mother working in an old office building?
6. Carol's father works as an electrician.
7. The tomatoes are 99 pence a kilo.
8. Ben has a terrible headache.
9. After this tour you have the whole afternoon free to explore the city.

EXAMPLE 2

1. I bought **a** pair of shoes.
2. I saw **a** movie last night.
3. They are staying at **a** hotel.
4. I think **The** man over there is very unfriendly.
5. That is **the** problem I told you about.
6. **The** night is quiet. Let's take a walk!
7. **The** price of gas keeps rising.
8. I read **an** amazing story yesterday.
9. I live in **an** apartment. **The** apartment is new.
10. I would like **a** piece of cake.
11. I was in **a** Japanese restaurant. **The** restaurant served good food.

Visit our Website



www.amkresourceinfo.com

-----JOIN US by **CLICK** here-----



Important Links in our Website

A M K – Free E Resources

<http://amkresourceinfo.com/free-e-resources/>

Daily Newspapers : <http://amkresourceinfo.com/daily-newspapers/>

Job Notifications : <http://amkresourceinfo.com/job-notifications/>

E Books : <http://amkresourceinfo.com/e-books-2/>

E Magazines : <http://amkresourceinfo.com/e-magazines-2/>

Online Buy Books : <http://amkresourceinfo.com/online-buy-books/>

RRB – Group D : <http://amkresourceinfo.com/rrb-group-d/>

And many more...

Keep visiting for more updates

"Your Success, Our Motto"