



Articles (a, an, the)

What Are Articles?

Articles are small words (a, an, the) that come before nouns. They help your reader understand if you are talking about something general or specific.

A vs. An

Use 'a' before words that begin with a consonant sound.

Example: a student, a book

Use 'an' before words that begin with a vowel sound.

Example: an essay, an hour

Tip: Use the *sound*, not the spelling. For example, an hour is correct because the “h” is silent.

The

General vs. Specific

Use 'a/an' for general ideas:

Example: A student needs time to study.

Use 'the' for specific ideas:

Example: The student in my class needs help.

Common Mistakes

Missing Articles:

Incorrect: Students need to complete assignment.

Correct: Students need to complete the assignment.

Wrong Article:

Incorrect: She is a excellent student.

Correct: She is an excellent student.

Tips

- Use a/an for general nouns
- Use the for specific nouns
- Match a/an to pronunciation (sound, not spelling)
- If your reader knows exactly which thing you mean, use the. If not, use a/an.