



OMISSION OF ARTICLES

A. Generally, we do not use articles before a proper noun. Therefore, no article is used before the names of:

- i. people. Example: Her name is Shruti Chauhan.
- ii. countries and continents. Example: Have you been to Denmark?
- iii. cities and states. Example: Javed has just moved to Chennai.
- iv. days and months. Example: We'll meet again on Wednesday in the month of August.
- v. seasons and festivals. Example: I will be celebrating Diwali with my family.
- vi. languages. Example: Deepa has planned to study German.
- vii. subjects of study. Example: Mahish is majoring in Botany.
- viii. games, sports and activities. Example: Jaspreet loves playing hockey.
- ix. meals. Example: I like to eat breakfast early.
- x. articles of food. Example: There is cauliflower on the menu today.
- xi. diseases. Example: She has gone to get tested for jaundice.

No Slipping

When the name of a meal or article of food is modified by an adjective phrase or adjective clause, an article is used to make it specific.

Examples:

I have **an** early lunch today.
The chicken you are eating is not fresh.

B. We do not use articles with:

- i. plural countable nouns that refer to the entire class. Example: **Children** have their own world of imagination.
- ii. abstract nouns used in a general sense. Example: **Wisdom** is a gift of God to mankind.
- iii. material nouns like **gold, silver, paper, water**. Example: This cupboard is made of wood.
- iv. words such as **father, mother** when used as a proper noun. Example: **Mother** wants me to go to Mumbai for higher studies.

C. We do not use articles with public institutions like these: **church, school, college, hospital, market, temple, prison, university, court**.

These nouns don't take any article when they are used for their primary purpose, i.e., when the reference is to the purpose or function of the building.

Example: We go to church on Sundays. (NOT **the** church)

But a noun like this takes **the** when it refers to its building, not to the purpose it is meant for.

Example: I went to **the** church to admire its architecture.

D. We do not use articles with these phrases: **to take place, to lose heart, to go to bed, to shake hands, to take to task, by bus, by land, by chance, at home, at ease, in hand, all day, all night, from dusk to dawn, from right to left, at last, in trouble, by mistake, to make use of, to take care of, to take offence**

Workout



Strike out the **articles** in these sentences where they are not required.

1. He travelled to the France.
2. What did you have for the lunch?
3. He was arrested and put in the prison.
4. The tuberculosis is now a curable disease.
5. The honesty is a great virtue.
6. The English is the language of the English.
7. The man is a social animal.
8. We go to the school by a bus.

Learning Window



REPETITION OF ARTICLES

Let us now learn the rules for repetition of articles.

- A. If there are two or more adjectives in a sentence referring to the same noun, the article is used only before the first adjective.

Example: Seema has **a red** and **black** dress. (Seema has one dress which is red and black in colour.)

- B. If different adjectives refer to different nouns in a sentence, the article must be placed before each adjective.

Example: Seema has **a red** and **a black** dress. (Seema has two dresses, one is red and one is black.)

- C. If two or more connected nouns refer to the same person or thing, the article is used only before the first noun.

Example: **The Chief Minister** and **Chief Guest** has not arrived yet. (The sentence indicates that the Chief Minister is the Chief Guest for the function. It refers to one person.)

- D. If two or more connected nouns refer to different persons or things, the article must be placed before each noun.

Example: **The Chief Minister** and **the Chief Guest** have not arrived yet. (The sentence indicates that the Chief Minister and the Chief Guest are two different persons.)

Workout



Correct these sentences. You may have to insert, omit or change **articles**.

1. We saw interesting video on an Internet. I copied link for you. Here it is.
2. Can you switch on air conditioner, please? Also, shut a door when you leave.
3. Mars is a fourth planet from sun. It is a terrestrial planet, which means that it has an solid surface.
4. Managing Director was busy in a urgent meeting with the MP from the Assam. We had to wait for the hour and half before we could meet him to discuss our problems.
5. Team of the two Indian mountaineers succeeded in reaching a top of the Mt Everest, highest peak in world. Whole nation applauded a feat.
6. A lady who lives in neighbourhood is a architect by the profession. She is the Bengali married to the Assamese. Two are happily married.



Read this extract from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. Complete this extract with a, an or the. Mark (X) where no article is required.

Suddenly, she came upona..... little three-legged table, all made ofx..... solid glass; there was nothing on it but tiny golden key. Alice's first idea was that this might belong to one of doors of the hall, but alas! either locks were too large, or key was too small, but at any rate it would not open any of them. However, on second time round, she came upon low curtain she had not noticed before, and behind it was little door about fifteen inches high. She tried little golden key in lock, and to her great delight it fitted! Alice opened door and found that it led into small passage, not much larger than rat-hole. She knelt down and looked along passage into loveliest garden you ever saw. How she longed to get out of that dark hall, and wander about among those beds of bright flowers and those cool fountains, but she could not even get her head through doorway. 'And even if my head would go through,' thought poor Alice, 'it would be of very little use without my shoulders.'

Talking Point



Values/Skill Developed : Interpersonal Relationship

Work in pairs. Read out the dialogues with your partner and fill in each blank with an appropriate article. Mark (X) in the place where no article is required.

- New student:** new school looks pretty great. Has it got big playground?
Parent: Come with me. I will show you playground.
New Student: This is cool. Let's sit here and watch game.
- Tourist:** Is there ancient fort in this town?
Guide: Yes, you can see walls of fort over there.
Tourist: Is red building palace?
Guide: Yes, it is believed that ghosts of kings and queens still live there.
- Student:** Does library have selection of short stories by O Henry?
Librarian: Go to section at corner. You will find several of them.
Student: If I find book I want, can I borrow it for week?
Librarian: No, you have to get library card first.

My Takeaway

- A and an are **indefinite articles**. They accompany many singular nouns and refer to nouns in general. They are also used when a noun is mentioned for the first time. A is used with nouns that begin with consonant sounds while an is used with nouns that begin with vowel sounds.
- The is the **definite article**. It is the most common word in the English language and is used with nouns used in particular sense.
- We omit the articles with uncountable nouns and plurals.