ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Articles and determiners

Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you make clear in writing whether you mean one specific thing or any thing of that kind. The dog next door is a particular dog, a dog could be any dog, and the difference matters to your reader. Articles and determiners also show how many you mean, so your sentence says exactly what you intended.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Choose the article: I saw ___ owl in the tree.

SOLUTION

The word after the blank starts with a vowel sound: owl.

Before a vowel sound, use 'an', not 'a'.

So: I saw an owl in the tree.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Choose the determiner: ___ book on the desk is mine. (the one we both know)

SOLUTION

The book is a specific one both speaker and listener know.

For a specific thing, use 'the'.

So: The book on the desk is mine.

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Practice questions

1

Choose: I need ___ pen. (any pen)

A an

B a

C the

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2

Choose: ___ sun rose. (the one sun)

A a

B an

C The

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3 Choose: I ate ___ apple. (any apple)

- A a
- B the
- C an

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4 Choose: ___ apples on the table are red. (specific apples)

- A The
- B a
- C an

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5

Choose: She has ___ umbrella.

A the

B an

C a

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6

Choose: He is ___ honest man.

A a

B the

C an

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7

Choose: I saw ___ elephant.

A an

B a

C the

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8

Choose: ___ dog barked all night. (a specific dog)

A a

B The

C an

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9

Choose: We need ___ hour to finish.

A the

B a

C an

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10

Choose: I want ___ orange, please.

A a

B an

C the

Understand It with Pulse

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ANSWER KEY

1. a

2. The

3. an

4. The

5. an

6. an

7. an

8. The

9. an

10. an

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