



## Articles

### Articles With Common Nouns

#### Indefinite Article: A or An

Shows class or group

Ex: This is **a** textbook.

This is **an** apple.

Note: Use “a” when the word following it begins with a consonant sound; use “an” when the word following it begins with a vowel sound.

Singular

Ex: **A** textbook is useful

**An** apple is healthy.

#### Definite Article: the

Identifies the noun

Ex: **The** textbook is large.

Specific

Ex: **The** history textbook is large.

Identifiable to reader and writer

Ex: **The** sun is hot.

An adjective identifies the noun as one of a kind

Ex: **The** best book is *Gone With the Wind*.

#### No Article

Plural

Ex: *Books are useful.*

Uncountable

Ex: *Milk is rich in Vitamin D.*

### Articles with Proper Nouns

#### Definite Article: the

Plural family names

Ex: **The** Smiths left.

States, cities, and universities introduced by a common noun

Ex: **The** city of Dallas

Oceans, rivers, mountains, and public buildings

Ex: **The** Pacific Ocean

### **No Article**

Singular names of people

Ex: Jeff left school.

States, cities, and universities not introduced by a common noun

Ex: Dallas Baptist University is on the right.

Adapted from *Writing Clearly: An Editing Guide* by Janet Lane and Ellen Lange. (Boston: Heinle and Heinle, 1993).

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